

pdc

JANUARY
1971

50¢

IN THIS ISSUE:
HORROR
FROM THE
LOWER DEPTHS

IN THE

**ZOMBIES
CAVE**

PLUS

THE
**SHOCKING
HAPPENING**

WITH THE

**JUNGLE
GHOST**

**PLUS
OTHER
SPINE-CHILLING
TALES**





MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS

**7 FEET
TALL**

In Authentic Colors With
GLOW in the DARK EYES

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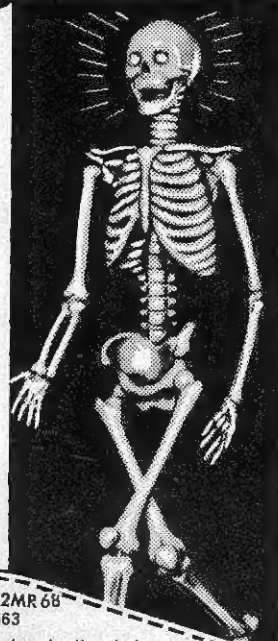
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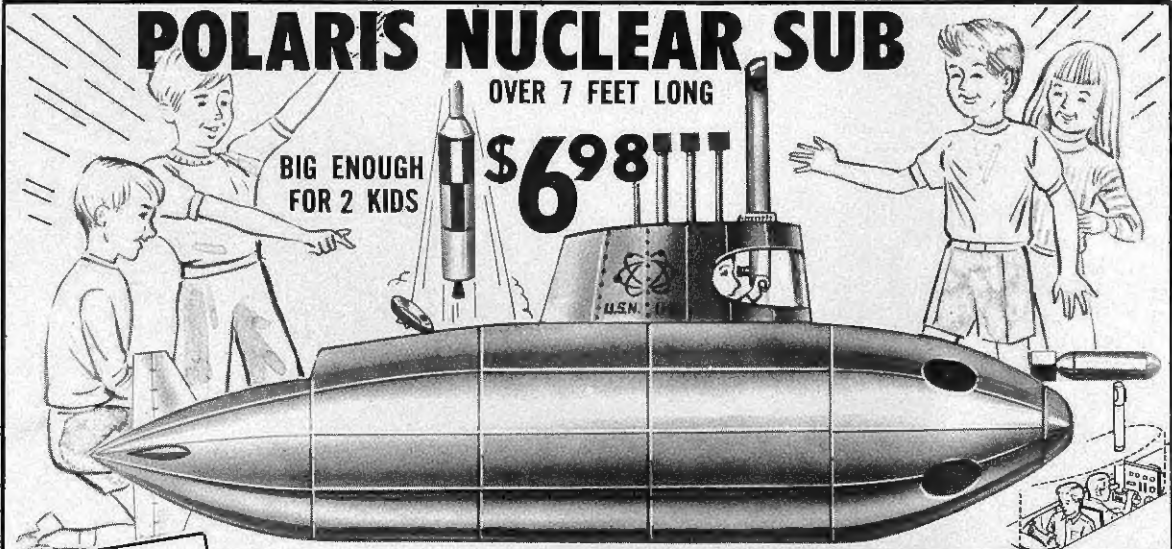
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BIG ENOUGH
FOR 2 KIDS

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TERROR TALES

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Brace yourself for the weird and ghastly tale of two brothers caught in a web of horror. Gulp!

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A solid citizen turns into a vicious, snarling, murderous monster hopelessly trapped even in death. A shocker!



CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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REAL AND TERRIBLE BEYOND ALL WORDS--DEFYING ALL DESCRIPTION-- THIS GHASTLY, GARGANTUAN MONSTER APPEARED FOR HUMAN EYES TO WITNESS FOR THE FIRST TIME!

THE BLOODY MONSTER



THE NATIVES CHANTED THEIR WEARINESS AS THE SAFARI MADE ITS WAY INTO THE UNEXPLORED JUNGLE-- WHEN SUDDENLY THEY BROKE RANKS IN TERROR!

TANGUNU!
TANGUNU!

... TANGUNU!

WHAT'S WRONG, DEJAN? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THEM?

THEY GO NO FURTHER! THIS IS HABITAT OF TANGUNU-- THE WHITE APE!





THE HUGE BEAST LASHED OUT WITH A FURY AT THE STEEL MESH THAT CUT AT HIM LIKE BARE BLADES, AND AT DAWN...



THIS CHLOROFORM WILL DO IT!



HE NO FIGHT NOW... BUT MEN AFRAID TO CARRY HIM!

AFRAID OR NOT-- THEY'LL DO AS I SAY!

AIIIIII!

ARGHHH! NO! NO! WE DO AS YOU SAY!

FORWARD NOW! AND NO REST UNTIL WE'RE CLEAR OF THE JUNGLE!



THE INCESSANT CHATTERING OF THE MONKEYS HAS STOPPED!

NEVER MIND THAT-- LOOK! WE'VE REACHED THE TOWN!



NOT A SOUL-- EVERYTHING DESERTED!

WORD TRAVELS FAST! THEY FEAR TANGUNU!





OH, CLAY--
LET THE
CREATURE
GO!

IT HAS BEEN SAID
THAT NO FORCE ON
EARTH CAN KEEP
TANGUNU FROM
THE JUNGLE!

**BUT CLAY
BREKER
WAS
DEAF
TO ALL
PLEAS TO
RELEASE
THE
MONSTER!
A CARGO
SHIP
BOUND
FOR THE
STATES
WAS
TEMPTED
BY
BREKER'S
HIGH
PASSAGE
FEE!**



DARLING, NO--
DON'T TELL ME
YOU'RE GOING
DOWN TO **THAT**
THING!

YES--I NEVER
TIRE OF VIEWING
MY MAGNIFICENT
PRIZE!



GOD OF THE
APES! WELL
YOU'VE MET
YOUR MASTER!



AWORRRR!

GO AHEAD--
SNARL YOUR
HEAD OFF!
WHAT CAN
YOU DO?



AWWRRRR! AWRRR!



DON'T DO THAT, MR. BREKER--
THAT THING WILL GET LOOSE
AND KILL US ALL!



**BREKER'S CONQUEST OF TANGUNU HAD IN SOME
WAY AFFECTED HIS MIND!**

DARLING-- PLEASE
DON'T TORMENT
THAT CREATURE!

HE'S MINE TO DO WITH
AS I CHOOSE!
MINE!

AND ALMOST AT ANY TIME, BREKER
WOULD RETURN TO HIS SADISTIC
DIVERTISEMENT! BUT ONCE HE
STEPPED TO CLOSE!

AAHEEH!
M-MY SHOULDER!

HE SCREAMED IN AGONY AND
PASSED OUT!

DARLING--
A-ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

HE IS-- THIS
TIME! BUT HE
WAS LUCKY!

GARRRRRG!



WE'D BETTER LEAVE
HIM ALONE SO HE
CAN REST!



SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH
ME! I-I FEEL STRANGE!



MY HANDS ARE STIFF-- APPEAR
SWOLLEN, AND MY SKIN-- THE
TEXTURE IS SO COARSE
AND MORE HAIRY!



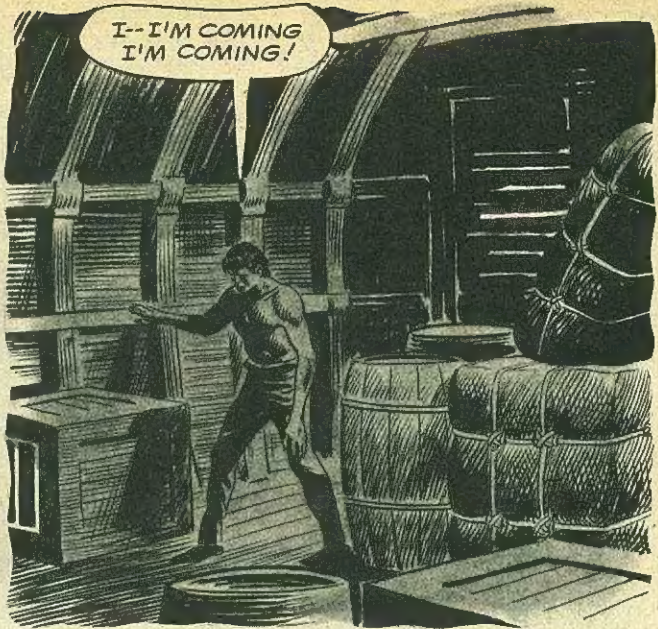
IS IT SOME DISEASE
I'VE CONTRACTED
FROM THE BITE
OF THE APE?



DURING THE NIGHT, HIS WIDE-OPEN FEVERISH EYES ATTESTED TO HIS STRANGE RESTLESSNESS!



**I-- I'M COMING
I'M COMING!**



**HE DESCENDED THE GANGWAY TO
THE CELL-- WHERE GLEAMING
BEADY EYES DREW HIM LIKE A
MAGNET...**



**THE MONSTER STOOD UP AND POINTED TO THE CELL
LOCK! AND BREKER RESPONDED!**



GRRROWRR!

**THE MONSTER LUMBERED UP THE GANGWAY--
AND SECONDS LATER-- TERRIFYING SHRIEKS
WERE HEARD! IT SHOCKED BREKER TO
AWARENESS!**



**AHHHH-- HOW
DID I GET
DOWN HERE?**



HELP ME--
SOMEBODY!
HELP ME!



THERE HE
GOES UP
THE MAST!

PULL IN THE SAIL,
AND HE'LL FALL!



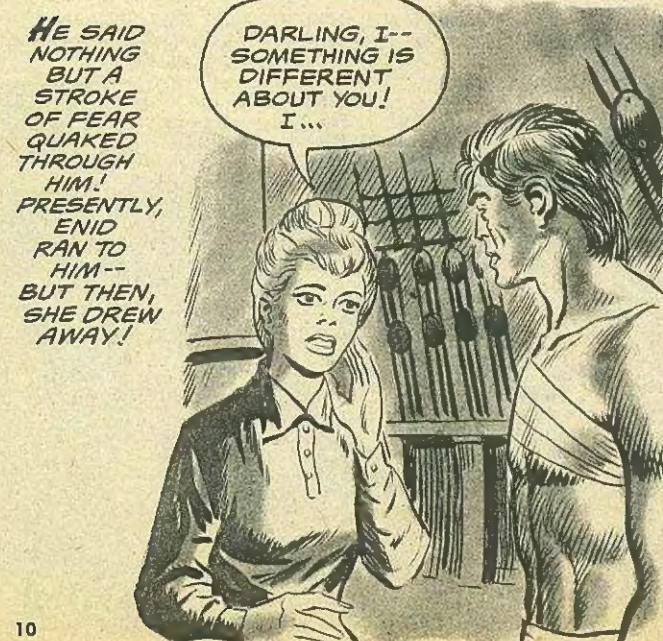
LOOK OUT!
HERE HE
COMES!



COME ON-- LET'S PICK HIM UP
AND CARRY HIM DOWN BEFORE
HE COMES TO!



ONLY SIX MEN ARE
LIFTING HIM NOW!
H-HE'S LIGHTER
AND LESS HAIRY!



HE SAID
NOTHING
BUT A
STROKE
OF FEAR
QUAKED
THROUGH
HIM!
PRESENTLY,
ENID
RAN TO
HIM--
BUT THEN,
SHE DREW
AWAY!

DARLING, I--
SOMETHING IS
DIFFERENT
ABOUT YOU!
I...



CLAY-- WAIT!
DON'T GO!

OH, PLEASE, CLAY-- PLEASE
OPEN THE DOOR AND LET
ME INSIDE!



HE
REMAINED
IN HIS
STATE-
ROOM,
MUTE TO
HER
PLEAS!
HE
GLANCED
AT
HIMSELF
IN THE
MIRROR!

M-MY JAW IS
PONDEROUS AND MY
CHEEK BONES HIGH!



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO
ME? W-WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?



FEAR
DROVE
HIM TO
SLEEP--
HIS ONLY
REFUGE!
BUT THAT
NIGHT, HE
AWAKENED
AGAIN--
AND
STARTED
DOWN THE
GANGWAY!



AN
UTTERLY,
UNWORLDLY
TRANSFOR-
MATION
WAS
TAKING
PLACE!
MINUTES
LATER,
ENID WAS
AWAKENED
BY A
POUNDING
ON THE
DOOR!



W-WHO
IS THAT?



AARRROWRRR!

AIEEEEE!

SAVE ME--
PLEASE!
EEEEEE!

SHE
SCREAMED
IN TERROR!
HOW COULD
SHE KNOW
HER FATE
WAS IN THE
ARMS OF
ONE WHOSE
EMBRACES
SHE HAD
KNOWN
MANY
TIMES!



GET HIM, MEN!
WATCH THE GIRL!

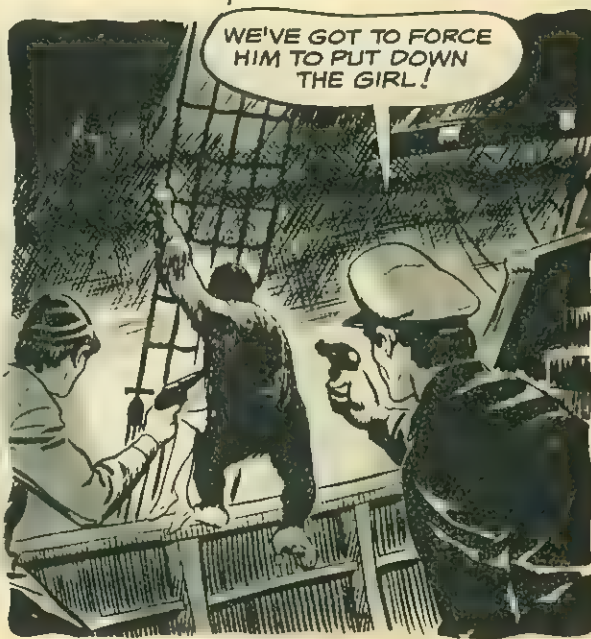


GROWRRR!

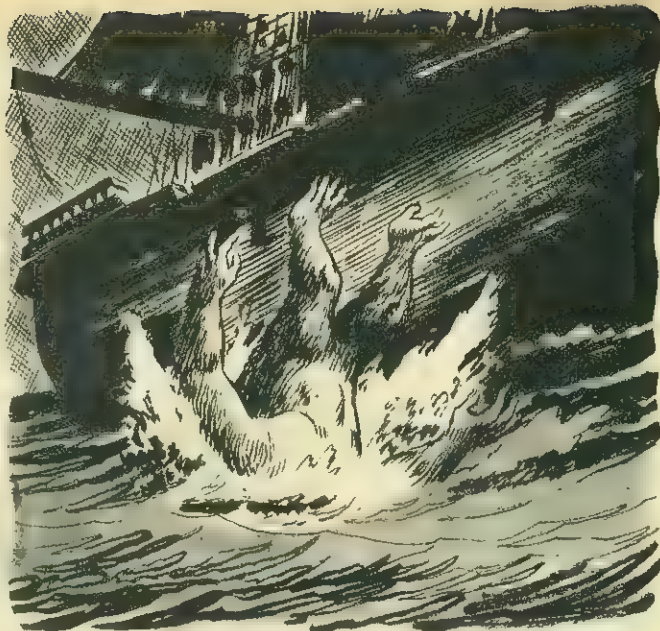
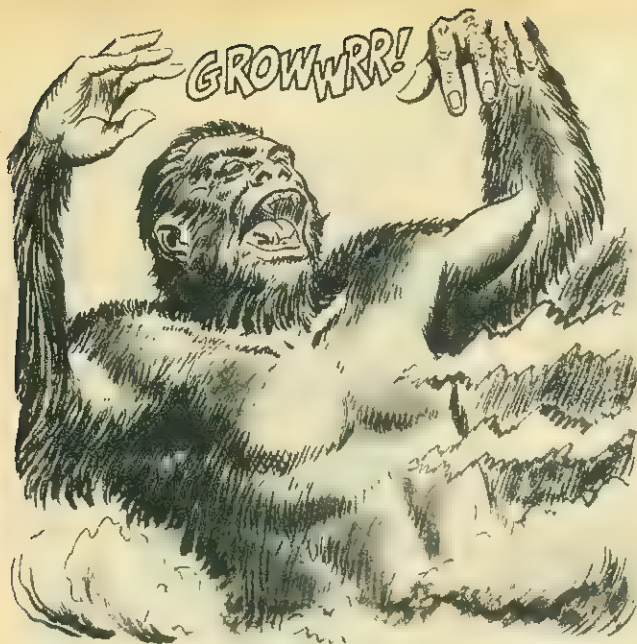
OWWWW!



WE'VE GOT TO FORCE
HIM TO PUT DOWN
THE GIRL!



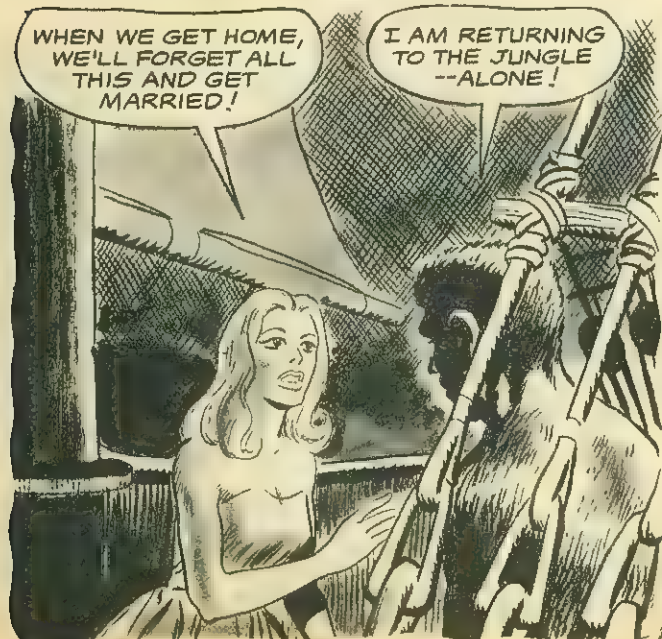
BLAM!
BLAM
BANG!



WE'RE DONE
WITH THE
MONSTER!



CLAY! OH, DARLING--
WHAT AN ORDEAL!



WHEN WE GET HOME,
WE'LL FORGET ALL
THIS AND GET
MARRIED!

I AM RETURNING
TO THE JUNGLE
--ALONE!



AND WHEN SHE GAZED INTO HIS EYES-- COLD,
THIN SLITS SHE HAD SEEN ONLY IN ANOTHER
BEING, ENID HAD A GLIMPSE OF THE SOUL
CONTORTING TRUTH! TANGUNU WOULD
RETURN TO THE JUNGLE!

The End

HE CALLED CHARLES A FOOL! BUT WHEN BECKER SAW THE CORPSE RISE UP, ALIVE, HE KNEW CHARLES'S EXPERIMENT HAD WORKED! AND SIDNEY COULDN'T ESCAPE THE LIVING DEAD IN...



THE ZOMBIES CAVE

FOR YEARS PROFESSOR CHARLES ROBEY WORKED ON HIS EXPERIMENT LEADING TO THE RESTORATION OF LIFE!

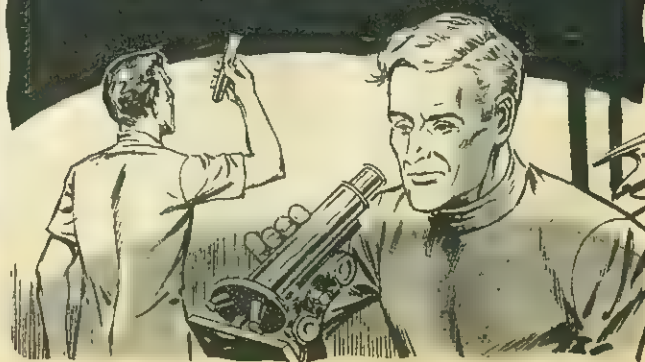
WHAT IS MISSING
HOW MUCH LONGER
WILL IT TAKE?



HIS ASSISTANT, SIDNEY BECKER, FEELS NOTHING BUT CONTEMPT FOR CHARLES!

I THINK I'M CLOSE
NOW, SIDNEY!

CHARLES--I
THINK YOUR
HOPES ARE
FANTASTIC!!!



THAT NIGHT...



JEANNE, JEANNE!
I THINK I'VE GOT
IT! GET SIDNEY
ON THE PHONE!



COME RIGHT OVER,
SIDNEY, I THINK IT'S
GOING TO WORK
ANY MINUTE!



BUT IT'S MIDNIGHT--
OKAY, YOU'RE THE
BOSS, I'LL BE OVER!



SORRY TO CALL YOU SO LATE, BUT I'M
SURE MY NEW SERUM WILL WORK ON
THESE RATS! I'M SO EXCITED-- I
MUST TRY IT
RIGHT AWAY!

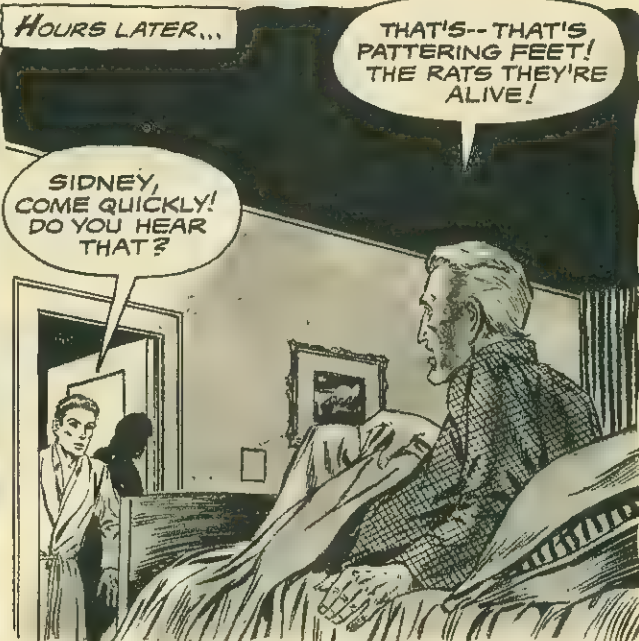
CHARLES, IT'LL
NEVER WORK!



HOURS LATER...

THAT'S-- THAT'S
PATTERING FEET!
THE RATS THEY'RE
ALIVE!

SIDNEY,
COME QUICKLY!
DO YOU HEAR
THAT?



THEY'RE
ALIVE!

THINK WHAT THIS
WILL MEAN TO
MANKIND!

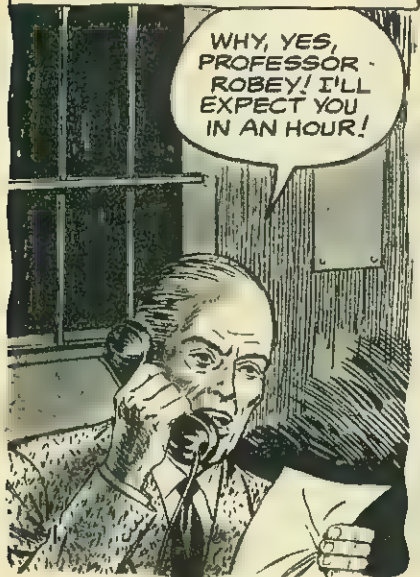


I'VE GOT TO
TEST THIS ON
HUMANS!

WHY NOT GET
VOLUNTEERS FROM
THE STATE
PENITENTIARY!



THE NEXT DAY, WARDEN GREY, RECEIVES A CALL...



WISH ME LUCK!

BEST OF LUCK, HONEY!



... SO, WARDEN GREY, IF VOLUNTEERS WILL LET ME INJECT THIS SERUM, BEFORE EXECUTION, I BELIEVE THEY'LL COME BACK TO LIFE!



...YES, I UNDERSTAND GOVERNOR WHITE, THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS DOES NOT ENDORSE IT!

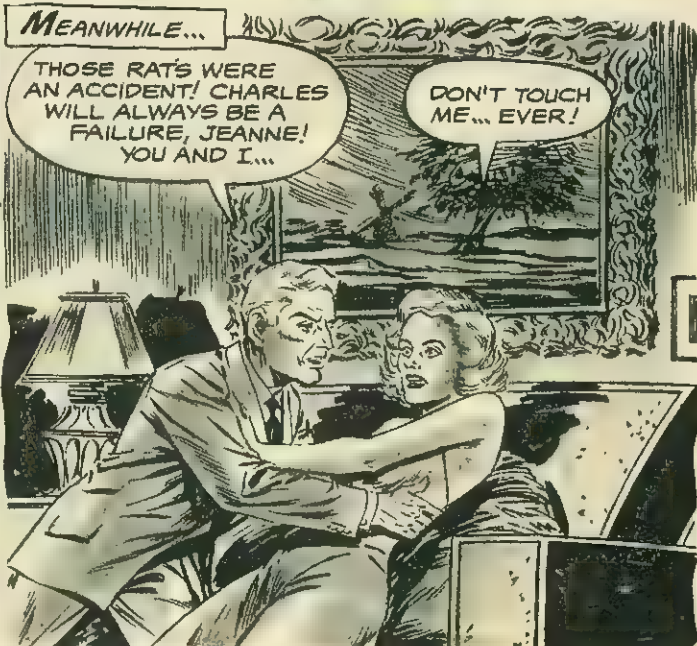
--CRACKPOT!!



MEANWHILE...

THOSE RATS WERE AN ACCIDENT! CHARLES WILL ALWAYS BE A FAILURE, JEANNE! YOU AND I...

DON'T TOUCH ME... EVER!



I'LL SHOW HIM! THAT SERUM WILL NEVER WORK ON HUMANS!

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS OF CHARLES!



WHAT HAPPENED, DEAR?

THEY TURNED ME DOWN! THINK I'M A CRACKPOT!





SIDNEY, WE'LL
INJECT THEM ALL!

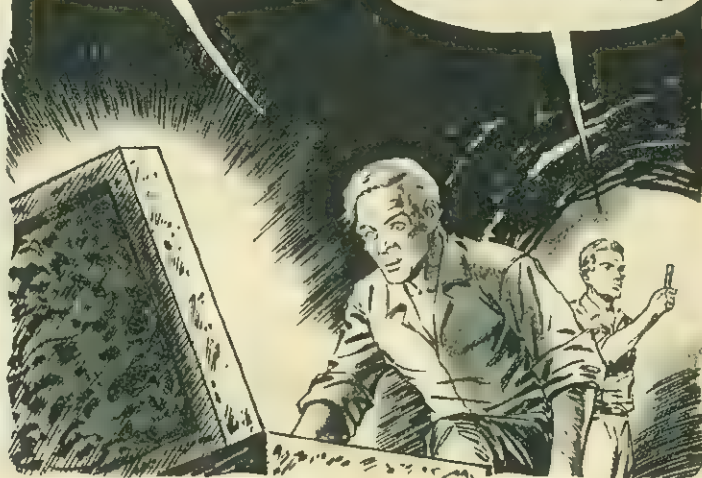
SO HE REALLY
THINKS THESE
CORPSES WILL
COME TO LIFE!
HA, HA!



THEN SIDNEY FOUND A NEW INTEREST, HE SUDDENLY
CAME UPON A CHEST!

MY GOD, LOOK AT
THIS GOLD-- JEWELS!
WE'RE RICH!

DON'T BE A FOOL!
THAT TREASURE MUST
BE TURNED OVER TO
THE GOVERNMENT!



CHARLES WORKED ON HIS SERUM WITHOUT
RESULTS!!

THE SERUM WORKED ON
RATS! WHAT DOES IT
NEED TO WORK ON
HUMAN BODIES!

I'M SURE,
I DON'T
KNOW!



THE NEXT DAY, THEY TRIED AGAIN--

OUCH! I NICKED
MY FINGER!

HE'S FORGOTTEN TO
REPORT THE TREASURE!
HOW CAN I GET
IT OUT?



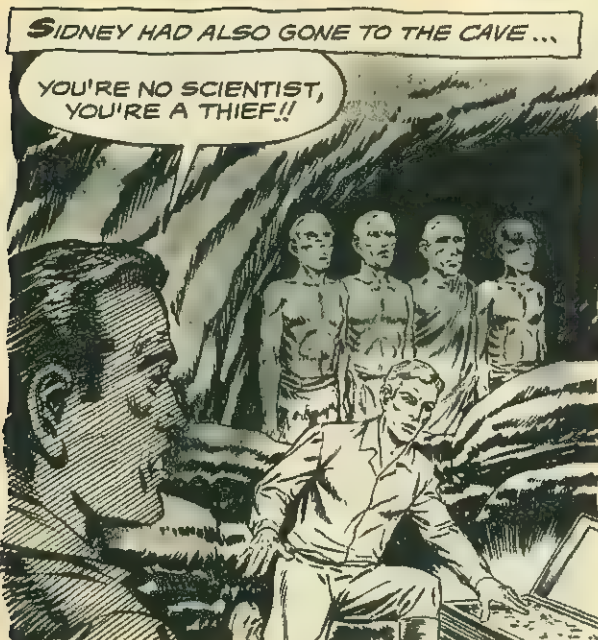
SIDNEY, SIDNEY-- IT...
IT... JUST... JUST OPENED
ITS EYES!



REALLY, CHARLES,
YOU'RE HAVING
HALLUCINATIONS!

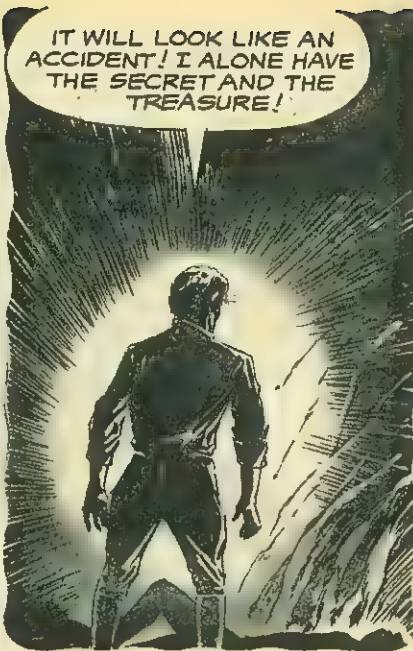
THE EYES OPENED...
--I'M SURE OF IT!



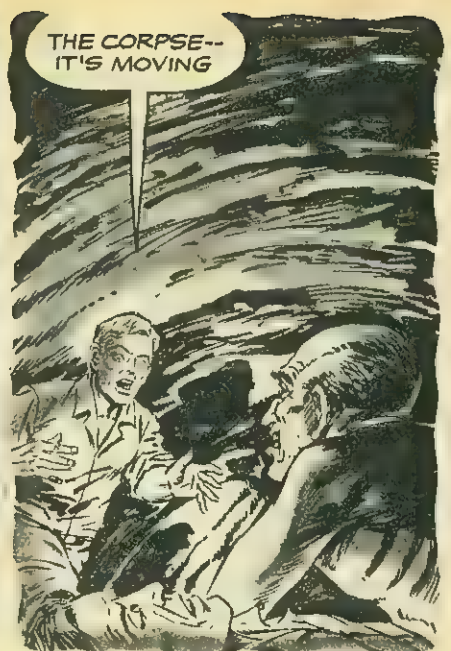




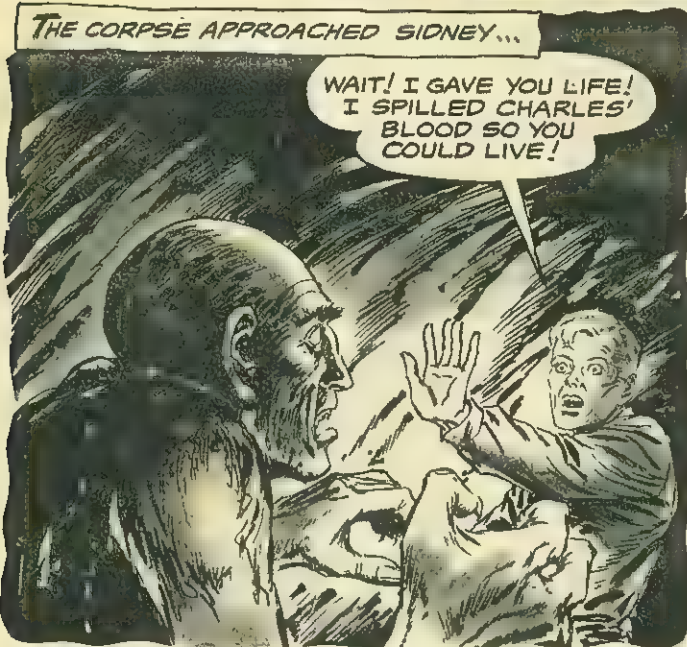
THE MISSING ELEMENT
WAS BLOOD! NOW CHARLES
IS DEAD!



IT WILL LOOK LIKE AN
ACCIDENT! I ALONE HAVE
THE SECRET AND THE
TREASURE!



THE CORPSE--
IT'S MOVING



THE CORPSE APPROACHED SIDNEY...

WAIT! I GAVE YOU LIFE!
I SPILLED CHARLES'
BLOOD SO YOU
COULD LIVE!

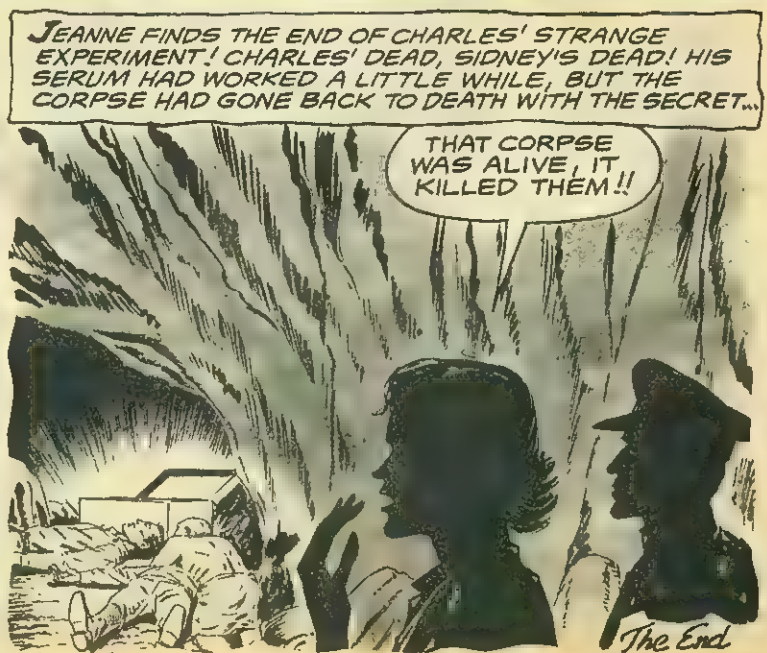


OH, NO! HELP ME, CHARLES!
HELP ME! STOP HIM!



MEANWHILE, JEAN HAD CALLED THE
POLICE...

HURRY, OFFICERS!
I'M WORRIED
ABOUT MY
HUSBAND!



JEANNE FINDS THE END OF CHARLES' STRANGE
EXPERIMENT! CHARLES' DEAD, SIDNEY'S DEAD! HIS
SERUM HAD WORKED A LITTLE WHILE, BUT THE
CORPSE HAD GONE BACK TO DEATH WITH THE SECRET...

THAT CORPSE
WAS ALIVE, IT
KILLED THEM!!

THE JUNGLE GHOST

G
R
R

R
R
R
R

THE LION-HUNTING PARTY, LED BY HUGH PAYNE AND HIS GUIDE, THE WELL-KNOWN HARRY KRANZ, PROCEEDED THROUGH THE THICK JUNGLE...



STRANGE HOW SUDDENLY A COMPLETE SILENCE FELL ON THE AIR... A PECULIAR HUSH!

WH-WHAT IS IT, HARRY? THIS QUIET?

SOMETHING... A LION MUST BE STALKING US... THE JUNGLE CREATURES HAVE FLED... MUST BE A STRANGE OR FEARLESS BEAST!



THE EXPERIENCED GUIDE LED THE FRIGHTENED NATIVES TO A SHELTERED SPOT AND THEY BOTH CROUCHED LOW, GUN POINTED, WAITED...

A FEW YARDS AWAY, A LIONESS LOPED INTO INTO VIEW, ITS YELLOW EYES PEERING ANXIOUSLY AROUND...



AFTER SEVERAL HOURS TREKING THE MALE LION... THE CHARACTER OF THE TERRAIN CHANGED... AND CRAGGY MOUNTAINS WITH JUTTING LEDGES CONFRONTED THE HUNTERS LIKE HUGE BARRIERS!

LIKE TERRIFIED ANIMALS, THEY RAN SWIFTLY INTO THE JUNGLE...



THE TWO HUNTERS SOON FOUND THE RUNAWAY NATIVES...

WE'RE NOT GIVING UP THIS SAFARI, HARRY! THIS IS LION COUNTRY AND I'M PAYING YOU TO HUNT LIONS... I WANT THAT MALE LION!

USELESS, HUGH THESE NATIVES WON'T BUDGE AN INCH UP THOSE HILLS!

THEY WERE ALL ASLEEP, INCLUDING THE GUIDE, BUT HUGH TOSSED RESTLESSLY AND FINALLY WALKED AWAY TO STARE INTO THE MYSTERIOUS NIGHT AND AT THE CRAGGY MOUNTAIN WHERE THE LIONS DWELT...

THOSE CRAZY NATIVES AND THEIR SUPERSTITIONS I-I'LL DO IT ALONE!

HUGH WAS ABLE TO GATHER HIS THINGS AND STEAL AWAY ON HIS VENTURE!

WHAT WAS THAT? A PADDED FOOT STEP? THAT MUFFLED SOUND SEEMED TO BE FOLLOWING HIM, CLIMBING THE LEDGES...

IT SOUNDED LIKE A FOUR-LEGGED CREATURE! I MUST BE IMAGINING...

HUGH WAS A FEARLESS YOUNG MAN AND DANGER APPEALED TO HIM BUT AN ODD FOREBODING TOOK HOLD OF HIM...

ABOUT TO START DOWN, A STRANGE APPARITION CAUGHT HUGH'S EYE...

STEP BACK... YOU'LL FALL!

WELL... I'LL GO BACK IF HARRY REFUSED TO COME THERE MUST BE SOME REAL REASON AFTER ALL!

FEAR VANISHED AS HUGH CLAMBERED WITH AMAZING SPEED UP... UP TO THE TOP... TO TRY TO RESCUE THAT GIRL... BUT SHE WAS GONE...

SHE FELL OVER THE LEDGE...

BUT NO SIGN OF THE GIRL SHOWED IN THE CHASM BELOW! THAT FRAIL FAIRY-LIKE CREATURE WAS NOWHERE VISIBLE...

NOT A SIGN OF HER...

THEN HIS FOOT... SLIPPED... AND HUGH FELT HIMSELF LOSE BALANCE...

A COLD SWEAT BROKE OUT AS HE WENT TOPPLING INTO THE BLACK VOID...

E
E
E
A
A
A

TUMBLING DOWNWARD HUGH CAUGHT SIGHT OF A PROJECTING TREE! HE DESPERATELY REACHED OUT AND CAUGHT HOLD... BUT...

THE BRANCH BROKE... HOLDING LONG ENOUGH TO BREAK HIS FALL TO THE CHASM FLOOR...

CRACK

LYING HALF-CONSCIOUS ON THE CHASM HIS SENSE OF RELIEF FROZE AS A DREADFUL DEEP THROATED GROWL CAME FROM BEHIND HIM... HE TRIED TO TURN... THEN BLACKNESS...

HUGH OPENED HIS EYES IN A STATE OF CONFUSION... BEWILDERMENT! WAS HE DEAD...

THIS LOOKS LIKE A CAVE BUT WHO...

WHO... ARE... YOU?

MY NAME IS AMELIA... YOU WERE BEING MENACED BY A LION! IT RAN AWAY WHEN IT SAW ME!

THE LION RAN AWAY... FROM YOU?

EVERYTHING WAS SO STRANGE... THIS EXCITING GIRL LIVING IN A CAVE... THE LION... LEAVING HIM UNMOLESTED!

THANK YOU AMELIA, FOR SAVING MY LIFE! YOU ARE AN ANGEL...

I... I... AM HAPPY I HELPED YOU, HUGH, BUT NOW YOU MUST GET WELL!

TO HUGH... LIFE IN THIS LONELY CAVE WITH AMELIA WAS BLISSFUL AND HE SOON FORGOT EVERYTHING...

I LOVE YOU, BUT TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF!

OF COURSE, MY DARLING!

THEN HUGH TOLD AMELIA ABOUT THE HUNT AND HARRY KRANZ, THE GUIDE! AT ONCE AMELIA'S ENTIRE ATTITUDE CHANGED!

I LOVE TO SWIM WITH YOU HUGH!

THESE CAVE POOLS MAKE ME BETTER, AMELIA, COME ON IN!

DID YOU SAY, HARRY KRANZ... HUGH... YOU MUST GO BACK TO YOUR OWN PEOPLE... WE MUST SAY GOOD-BYE!

ONLY IF YOU COME WITH ME, DARLING, I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

BELOVED! I SEND YOU BACK TO LIFE... AND HARRY KRANZ... YOUR FRIEND! IF YOU STAY HERE YOU MUST DIE!

THE NEXT DAY, AMELIA, QUIET AND MOODY, PLANNED A TREK THROUGH THE JUNGLES, AND HUGH WAS EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, I WILL NEVER PART FROM YOU... WHATEVER HAPPENS!

LET'S REST NOW! THE SUN IS HOT!

SURE, DARLING!

HE MUST HAVE SLEPT LONG, BECAUSE THE SUN WAS SETTING! HUGH FELT A CHILL WHEN HE AWOKED AND SAW NO SIGN OF AMELIA... ONLY HER SCARF...

SHE'S GONE!

WILDLY, IN PANIC, HUGH, HOLDING HER SCARF STARTED RUNNING, THE THOUGHT OF LOSING AMELIA WAS UNBEARABLY PAINFUL!

THE NEXT MORNING, HUGH STAGGERED INTO THE VILLAGE! HIS SEARCH FOR AMELIA HAD BEEN FUTILE... HARRY KRANZ COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EYES WHEN HE SAW HIM...

AMELIA!
AMELIA!

WHERE ARE YOU?

IT CAN'T BE! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE KILLED WEEKS AGO!

NO, HARRY... I'M NOT DEAD YET!



HUGH POURED OUT HIS INCREDIBLE STORY LATER, BUT HARRY BELIEVED NONE OF IT!

...AND I REALLY LOVE THIS GIRL, HARRY! I'M GOING BACK TO FIND HER... HERE'S HER SCARF...

POOR GUY HE MUST HAVE BEEN DELIRIOUS!

THIS SCARF! MY SWEETHEART, AMELIA'S! I GAVE IT TO HER TWENTY YEARS AGO... WE BURIED HER WITH IT! IT'S... IMPOSSIBLE!

YOU'RE NUTS, HARRY, IT CAN'T BE!



TWENTY YEARS AGO, AMELIA JERLI ASKED ME TO BE HER GUIDE THROUGH THE LION COUNTRY... WE FELL IN LOVE, BLINDLY... MADLY...

IN THE JUNGLE I WOODED AND WON HER!

NEVER LEAVE ME, DARLING, I LOVE YOU!

MARRY ME AND I'LL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!

THE NEXT DAY SHE WANDERED OFF ALONE... LIKE YOU! WE HEARD A ROAR...

TAKE THIS SCARF AS A GIFT FROM ME AMELIA!

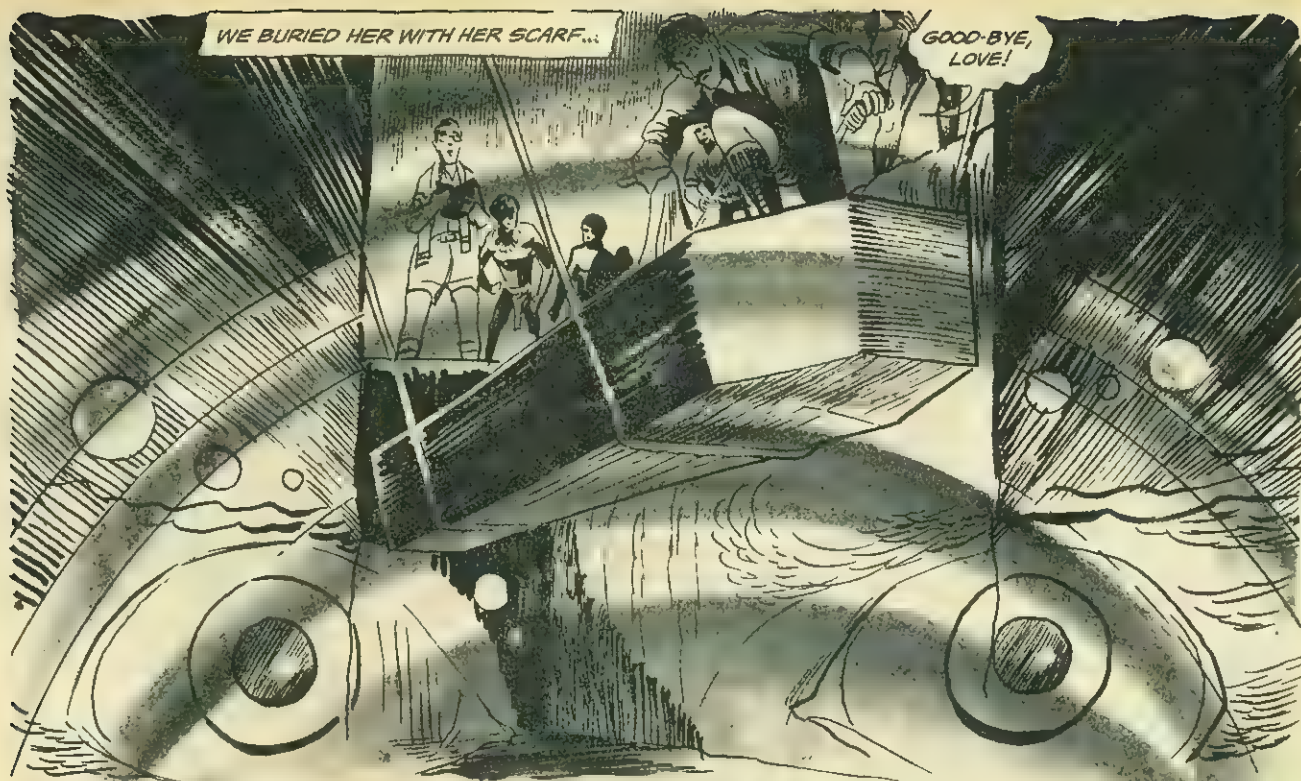
IT HAS MY NAME ON IT... IT'S BEAUTIFUL, HARRY!

Amelia



... A TIGER MAULED HER BUT A LION CAME AND DROVE OFF THE TIGER... TO SAVE HER... WHY, WE'LL NEVER KNOW... BUT THE LION WAS TOO LATE...





WHEN THEY REACHED THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, THE NATIVES STILL WOULDN'T FOLLOW HUGH! HE LOWERED HIMSELF ALONE TO THE LEDGE WHERE THE CAVE WAS, AND THERE, HE SAW... AMELIA... BUT YOUNG NO LONGER, INSTEAD, OLD AND HAGGARD... AND HARRY... BUT ALTHOUGH, NOW BOTH WERE DEAD... THEY WERE STRANGELY HAPPY!



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HERE WAS MURDER
IN THE AIR... AND
THERE WAS ALSO A
BIRD WHOSE TALONS...
LEFT BLOODY TRACKS...
WHAT WAS THE GRIM
SECRET BEHIND THIS
FEARFUL PLOT?

VACATION TIME! AFTER A LONG DAY
OF DRIVING, THREE WEARY TRAVELERS
ENTER A PEACEFUL, SLEEPY, LITTLE
VILLAGE...

CLIFFSIDE, FOLKS.
MIGHT AS WELL
STOP HERE
OVERNIGHT...

IT'S WELL
NAMED! THE
WHOLE TOWN
SEEMS BUILT
ON HILLS...

MY LEGS HAVE
BEEN ASLEEP
FOR THE PAST
FIFTY
MILES!

HOW QUaint! AND
LOOK WHAT THE
SIGN SAYS!

IF IT WAS GOOD
ENOUGH FOR
GRANGE, I WON'T
ARGUE... I'M HALF
DEAD...

CLIFFSIDE
GEN GRANGE
SLEPT HERE

AND INSIDE...

EMMET
BLAKE,
THE
FAMOUS
DETECTIVE!
WE'RE,
HONORED,
SIR!

THANKS,
BUT I'D
CONSIDER IT A
FAVOR IF YOU'D
KEEP THAT TO
YOURSELVES.
WE'RE TRYING
TO VACATION.

AND SOON, UPSTAIRS...

WELL, GOODNIGHT ALL. I'M... YAWN... GOING TO BED! AND WILL I ENJOY IT! EVERYTHING IS SO CALM AND RESTFUL HERE...

HO-HUM. ME FOR THE HAY ALSO! I'M ONE TIRED GIRL!

I'M STILL PUTTING IN AN EARLY CALL FOR ALL... TOMORROW IS SCHEDULED FOR FISHING EXCLUSIVELY!



WELL, GOODNIGHT, SALLY. PLEASANT DREAMS.

'NIGHT, EMMET! I SUPPOSE... OH, GOODNIGHT.

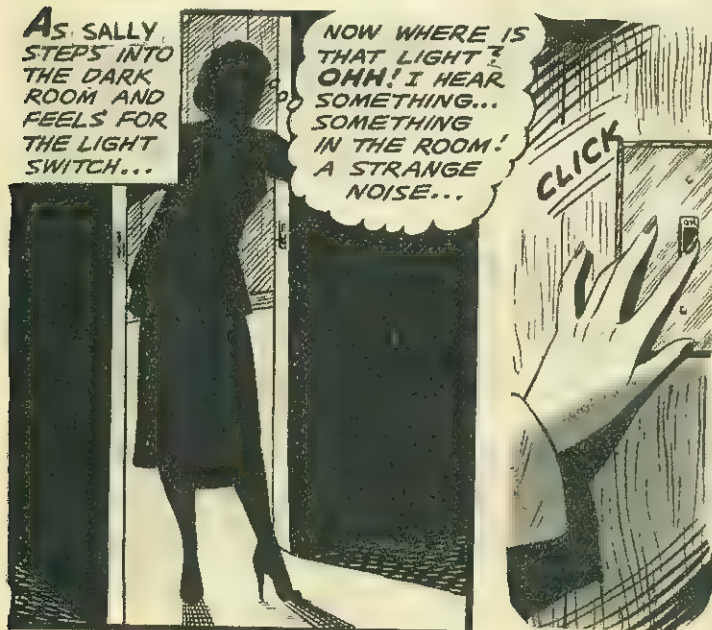
YOU'D THINK HE'D WANT TO KISS ME GOOD-NIGHT ONCE IN A WHILE!



AS SALLY STEPS INTO THE DARK ROOM AND FEELS FOR THE LIGHT SWITCH...

NOW WHERE IS THAT LIGHT? OHH! I HEAR SOMETHING... SOMETHING IN THE ROOM! A STRANGE NOISE...

CLICK



AS THE LIGHTS FLASH UP, SALLY SEES AN INCREDIBLE AND TERRIFYING SIGHT...

A BIRD! A BIG BLACK BIRD! IT... IT'S GOING TO ATTACK ME! OH, HELP! GO AWAY, YOU...

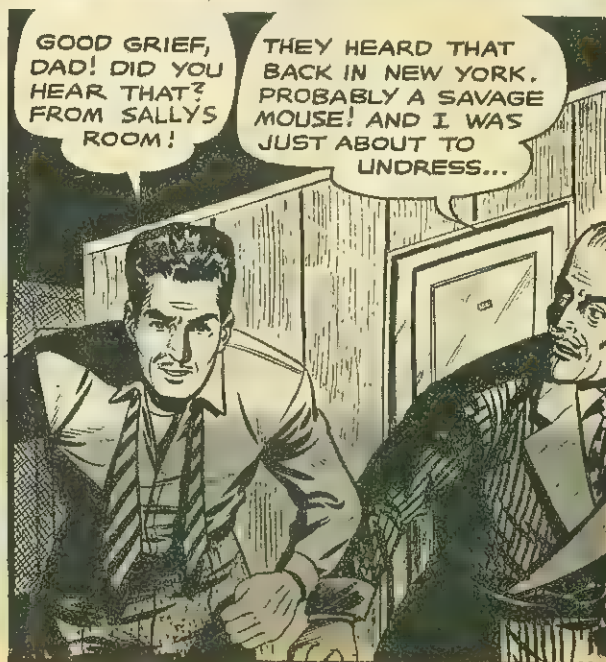


HELP! PLEASE... SOMEONE COME! HELP ME! EMMET!



GOOD GRIEF, DAD! DID YOU HEAR THAT? FROM SALLY'S ROOM!

THEY HEARD THAT BACK IN NEW YORK. PROBABLY A SAVAGE MOUSE! AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO UNDRESS...



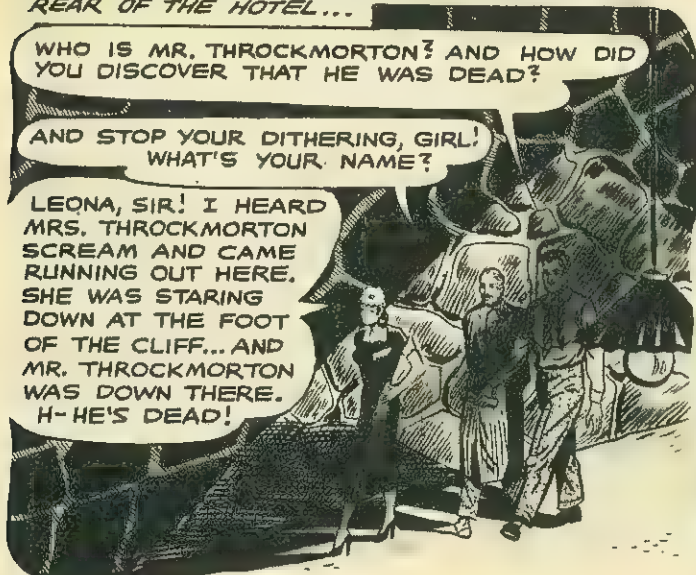


AFTER PROCURING A FLASHLIGHT, EMMET AND THE INSPECTOR FOLLOW THE TERRORIZED MAID THROUGH DIM PASSAGES TOWARD THE REAR OF THE HOTEL...

WHO IS MR. THROCKMORTON? AND HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THAT HE WAS DEAD?

AND STOP YOUR DITHERING, GIRL! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

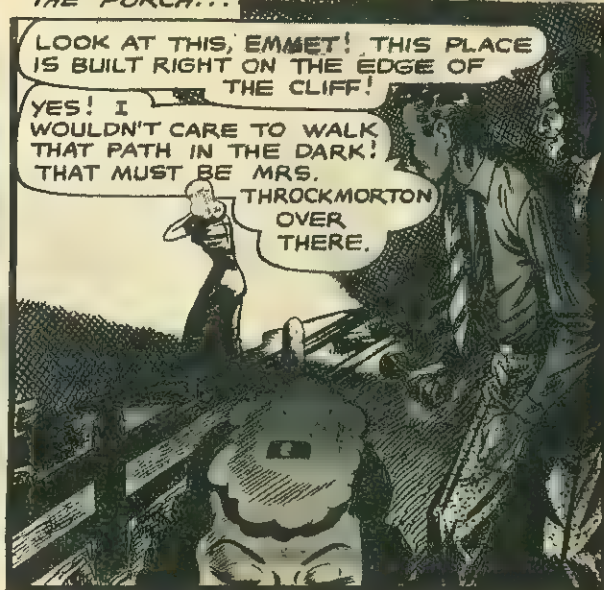
LEONA, SIR! I HEARD MRS. THROCKMORTON SCREAM AND CAME RUNNING OUT HERE. SHE WAS STARING DOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF... AND MR. THROCKMORTON WAS DOWN THERE. H-HE'S DEAD!



A MOMENT LATER, THEY STEP ONTO A WIDE VERANDA RUNNING THE WIDTH OF THE PORCH...

LOOK AT THIS, EMMET! THIS PLACE IS BUILT RIGHT ON THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!

YES! I WOULDN'T CARE TO WALK THAT PATH IN THE DARK! THAT MUST BE MRS. THROCKMORTON OVER THERE.



YES, I'M MRS. THROCKMORTON. I... I HEARD MY HUSBAND CRY OUT AND CAME RUNNING OUT HERE... HE... HE'S DOWN THERE NOW!

EMMET SENDS THE BEAM OF HIS FLASHLIGHT DOWN THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF...

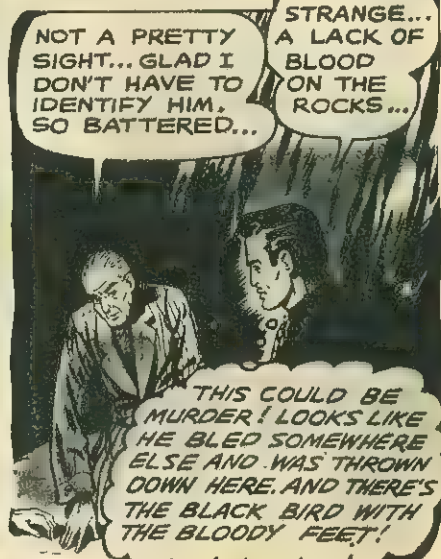
DON'T LOOK ANY LONGER, MRS. THROCKMORTON... YOUR HUSBAND IS BEYOND HELP...



LATER, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF...

NOT A PRETTY SIGHT... GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO IDENTIFY HIM, SO BATTERED...

STRANGE... A LACK OF BLOOD ON THE ROCKS...



THIS COULD BE MURDER! LOOKS LIKE HE BLED SOMEWHERE ELSE AND WAS THROWN DOWN HERE. AND THERE'S THE BLACK BIRD WITH THE BLOODY FEET!

AND A HALF HOUR LATER, IN THE LOBBY OF THE HOTEL...

IT COULD BE AN ACCIDENT, BUT MY SON DOESN'T THINK SO. ANYWAY, NO ONE LEAVES UNTIL THE LOCAL POLICE GET HERE.

I CALLED THEM, DAD. THEY SHOULD BE ARRIVING ANY MOMENT!

NOT AN ACCIDENT? I D...DON'T UNDERSTAND!



IF YOU THINK IT'S MURDER, MR. BLAKE I'VE GOT NOTHING TO HIDE! MY NAME IS TOM BRIDGES... AND THE MAID, LEONA, WAS WITH ME WHEN WE HEARD MRS. THROCKMORTON SCREAM. SHE'LL CONFIRM THAT!

YES! THAT'S T-TRUE, SIR!



LATER, UPSTAIRS IN EMMET'S ROOM...

NOW DON'T GO OFF THE BEAM, SON. JUST BECAUSE THE LOCAL POLICE ASKED YOU TO HELP THEM, IT **COULD** HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT, AFTER ALL.

ONE THING BOTHERS ME... THAT BLACK BIRD. WHERE IS IT NOW? AND HOW DID IT GET THE BLOOD ON ITS FEET? CERTAINLY NOT FROM THOSE ROCKS WHERE WE FOUND THE BODY!

UGH... THAT HORRID BIRD.

YES, IT COULD HAVE, BUT

HUH! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT D'YA WANT?

I'M GILES, SIR. THE JANITOR. THE CHIEF SENT ME TO ASK YOU IF YOU WANTED TO START QUESTIONING PEOPLE NOW?

HMM... GOOD THING WE DON'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR LOOKS. THAT FELLOW WOULD BE IN JAIL RIGHT NOW!

SO THE QUESTIONING BEGINS...

WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR HUSBAND THIS EVENING, MRS. THROCKMORTON? AND WAS HE IN THE HABIT OF STROLLING ON THAT DANGEROUS CLIFF? SUCH AN ELDERLY MAN.

YES, MY HUSBAND WAS MUCH OLDER THAN MYSELF! BUT I LOVED HIM. AND HE OFTEN WALKED ALONE ON THE PATH... IT WAS HIS HABIT... AFTER HE FINISHED HIS WORK IN THE AVIARY!

T...THE WHAT?

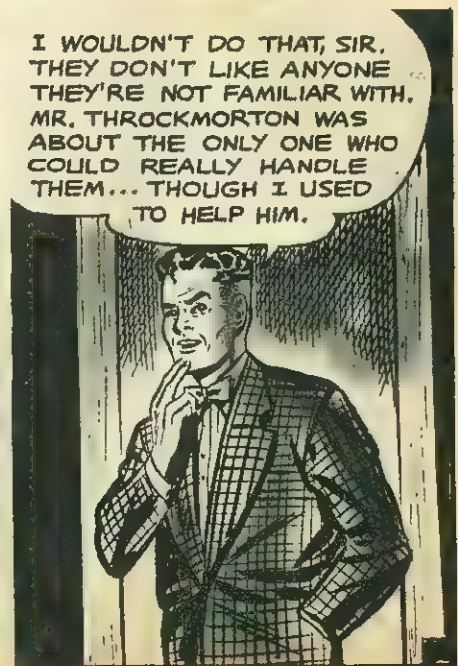
AN AVIARY, DAD! EVIDENTLY MR. THROCKMORTON WAS A BIRD LOVER.

HAH! AT LAST WE'RE GETTING TO IT. MAYBE NOW I CAN FIND OUT WHERE THAT BLACK BIRD CAME FROM. AND MORE IMPORTANT, WHERE IT WENT.

AND ABOUT THIS AVIARY, MRS. THROCKMORTON. DID YOUR HUSBAND BY ANY CHANCE HAVE ANY BLACK BIRDS? A CROW PERHAPS?

CROWS? COMMON CROWS? OH, NO. BUT HE DID HAVE A GREAT MANY BLACK BIRDS.. SEVEN OF THEM, IN FACT.

MY HUSBAND LOVED RARE BIRDS! HE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY ON THEM. AND ONLY LAST WEEK HE RECEIVED A SHIPMENT OF BIRDS FROM BOLIVIA... RAVENS! SEVEN RAVENS OF A VERY RARE SPECIES. HE WAS DOWN IN THE AVIARY TONIGHT! JUST BEFORE... BEFORE IT HAPPENED!

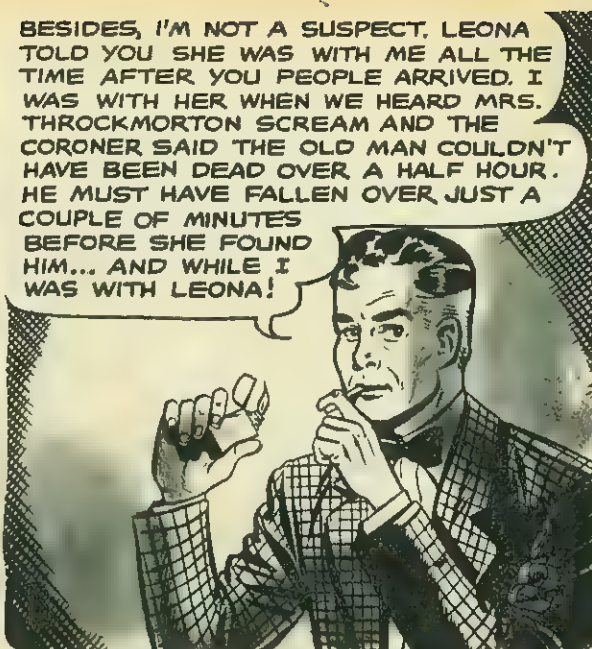




SO YOU USED TO HELP MR. THROCKMORTON WITH THE BIRDS, EH? THAT MUST HAVE BEEN INTERESTING...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE POLICE TOLD ME I COULD WANDER AROUND AS LONG AS I DIDN'T LEAVE...



BESIDES, I'M NOT A SUSPECT. LEONA TOLD YOU SHE WAS WITH ME ALL THE TIME AFTER YOU PEOPLE ARRIVED. I WAS WITH HER WHEN WE HEARD MRS. THROCKMORTON SCREAM AND THE CORONER SAID THE OLD MAN COULDN'T HAVE BEEN DEAD OVER A HALF HOUR. HE MUST HAVE FALLEN OVER JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES BEFORE SHE FOUND HIM... AND WHILE I WAS WITH LEONA!

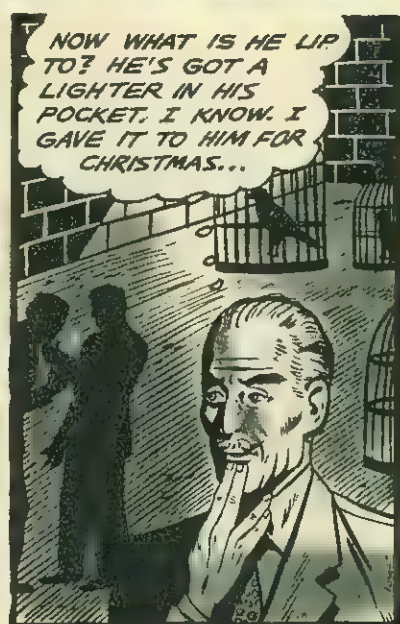


THAT'S A SOUND ACCOUNT OF YOUR ACTIVITIES, BRIDGES. HOLD THAT LIGHT, WILL YOU...

CERTAINLY...



THANKS. I... SNIFF... SEEM TO HAVE... SNIFF... CAUGHT A COLD FROM THE NIGHT AIR. THIS CIGARETTE... SNIFF... TASTES LIKE RAGWEED...



NOW WHAT IS HE UP TO? HE'S GOT A LIGHTER IN HIS POCKET. I KNOW. I GAVE IT TO HIM FOR CHRISTMAS...



SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING...

EMMET! WHAT IN THUNDER!

GIVE ME A HAND, DAD. I WANT THIS CHAP...

HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY? LET ME GO YOU FOOL!



THIS IS THE KILLER, DAD. I'M CERTAIN NOW.

ME? A MURDERER? I DENY...

YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO TALK LATER... BUT EMMET ALWAYS HAS THE FIRST SAY IN THESE CASES...

WHAT'S UP, INSPECTOR?

FIRST, YOU KILLED THROCKMORTON. SECOND... I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU ADMIT IT!

YOU FOOL! I'LL ADMIT NOTHING! AND AFTER YOU'RE LAUGHED OUT OF COURT, I'LL SUE YOU FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!

YIPE! IF EMMET HAS PULLED A BONER, WE'LL BE IN HEADLINES! I DON'T SEE A SCRAP OF EVIDENCE!

DON'T WORRY, INSPECTOR, EMMET ALWAYS KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING... I HOPE...



I'LL TELL YOU HOW YOU DID IT, BRIDGES. STEP BY STEP! AND I'M GOING TO MAKE IT SO GRAPHIC THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO ADMIT IT, BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE IN THE WORLD!



AS EMMET'S ACCUSIVE WORDS RING OUT IN THE HUSHED LOBBY, A TUMULT OF VOICES SEEM TO SHOUT... MURDER WILL OUT...



MR. THROCKMORTON WAS AN OLD MAN, BUT HIS WIFE IS YOUNG AND LOVELY. TOM BRIDGES IS ALSO YOUNG... AND HANDSOME... SO LIKE ATTRACTED LIKE...

WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS...

I KNOW... AND I'VE A PLAN...



NO MORE OF YOUR PLANS! WE'VE GOT TO KILL HIM! THAT'S THE ONLY WAY! HE'LL NEVER LET YOU GO FREE.

M-MURDER TOM! OH, NO...



I'LL DO IT, DARLING... BUT I'LL NEED YOUR HELP. THIS IS FOOL-PROOF... NO ONE WOULD DREAM IT WAS US... ER, ME...



THE PLAN WAS A GOOD ONE... AS GOOD AS YOU CAN CALL MURDER... AND IT WENT INTO EFFECT THE NEXT NIGHT...

I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST. I'LL BE WITH THE MAID BY THE TIME AGNES SCREAMS... I KNEW I COULDN'T MISS!



BUT FROM THE FIRST THE PLAN BEGAN TO CRUMBLE. HE WAS AN OLD MAN... BUT A STRONG ONE...

THIS IS MORE OF A STRUGGLE THAN I EXPECTED... YOU OLD FOOL!

S-STOP...



HELP! HE'S MURDERING ME... HELP!

DIE, YOU OLD IDIOT!

THOSE BIRD CAGES! AND ONE CURSED BIRD LOOSE! IT COULD RUIN EVERYTHING!



FINALLY IT WAS OVER! THE AVIARY HAD TO BE TIDIED UP... AND THEN THE SEARCH FOR THE BIRD THAT ESCAPED BEGAN...

FIRST TO GET HIM OUT OF THE WINDOW... THEN THAT BIRD... I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM...



FOR A MOMENT, EMMET STOPS SPEAKING... THEN SUDDENLY REACHES OUT AND GRASPS THE HAND OF TOM BRIDGES...

LOOK AT THIS HAND! SMELL IT! A FINE, WHITE HAND THAT NEVER KNEW THE FEEL OF STRONG, YELLOW LAUNDRY SOAP... UNTIL TONIGHT! WHEN YOU WASHED THE BLOOD OFF THAT BLACK BIRD'S FEET AND PUT IT BACK IN THE CAGE. THERE WAS NO TIME... YOU TOOK THE FIRST BAR YOU FOUND!

YES! YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL CONFESS! I DID DO IT...



LATER, THAT SAME EVENING...

AND THE POLICE LAB WILL FIND TRACES OF SOAP UNDER HIS NAILS... AND ON THE FEET OF THAT BIRD! RIGHT, EMMET?

RIGHT, DAD GAVE ME THE LEAD WHEN HE MENTIONED HOW CLEAN THE CAGES SMELLED, NATURALLY... THAT BLACK BIRD HAD BEEN WASHED WITH LAUNDRY SOAP. AND WHEN I COUNTED SEVEN BIRDS, I KNEW SOMEONE HAD PUT BACK THE ONE SALLY SAW!

WELL, THEY ARE BOTH IN JAIL NOW... TO THINK IT OVER!



ANOTHER THING. ASK DAD ABOUT HIS FINGER... BRIDGES HAD NO TROUBLE HANDLING THAT BIRD... HE WAS ACCUSTOMED TO IT!

EMMET, YOU'RE SIMPLY WONDERFUL! BUT THIS IS WHERE I CAME IN... NOW FOR ANOTHER TRY AT SLEEPING. AND IF I SEE ANY MORE BLACK BIRDS, I'LL... I'LL SIMPLY SCREAM!



THIS IS THE FRONT DOOR OF THE GRIM OLD BRUNO MANSION! BEHIND IT LIVED TWO BROTHERS, LAST OF THE BRUNO FAMILY...



CLAUDE, THE OLDER BROTHER, WAS A BORN MISER, WHO HAD TURNED THE CLINK OF PENNIES INTO THE RUSTLE OF FOLDING MONEY...



WHILE GORDON, THE YOUNGER BROTHER HAD BEEN A GAY BLADE FROM AWAY BACK, FRITTERING AWAY HIS SHARE OF THE FAMILY FORTUNE...



UNTIL FINALLY CLAUDE HELD ALL THE PURSE STRINGS, WHILE GORDON, WHO HAD BECOME A HOPELESS INVALID, WAS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON HIS OLDER BROTHER...



Hi-DEE, folks! This is your **PAL OF GLOOM**, the **OLD HAG**, cackling away! Want to hear what happened to the Bruno boys? Well, brace yourselves for a chiller-diller while I unravel my strange tale entitled---

OH HHHH, BROTHER!

THERE GO THE POOR BRUNO BROTHERS! IT'S SO NICE OF ONE TO WHEEL THE OTHER HERE IN THE PARK!

DON'T TELL ME THE BRUNO BROTHERS ARE POOR! I SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT GOES ON IN THAT CRAZY OLD HOUSE OF THEIRS!

YES, PEOPLE **DID** WONDER-- ALL EXCEPT **ME!** I **KNEW!** YOU SEE, I'D **WORKED** FOR THOSE TWO OLD COOTS, UNTIL CLAUDE STARTED PAYING ME OFF IN **COUNTERFEIT PENNIES!** SO LISTEN WHILE I GIVE YOU THE **INSIDE STORY** OF THAT HOUSE !!!

ONE DAY, AFTER CLAUDE HAD WHEELED GORDON IN THE PARK, THEY ENTERED THE OLD HOUSE AGAIN AND THE FRONT DOOR CLOSED **FOR KEEPS!**



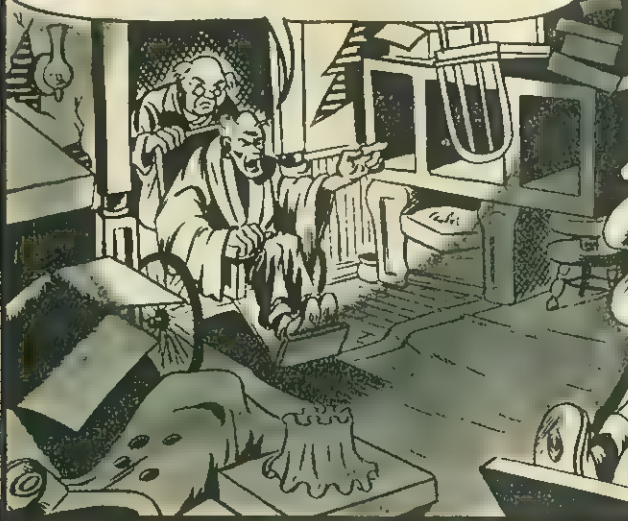
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE FRESH AIR, BROTHER GORDON!

NATURALLY, YOU'D EXPECT ME TO ENJOY IT-- BECAUSE IT'S **FREE!** YOU DON'T LIKE ANYTHING UNLESS YOU GET IT FOR NOTHING!

WHY, YOU EVEN HATE TO USE THIS ELEVATOR, AUNT AGATHA INSTALLED IN THE HOUSE, YEARS AGO! I'LL BET IT COSTS OVER A **NICKEL A TRIP** FOR THE POWER THAT TAKES ME UPSTAIRS!



LOOK AT ALL THE JUNK YOU'VE ACCUMULATED, YOU OLD SKINFINT! FOR YEARS, EVERY TIME YOU EVICTED A POOR FAMILY, YOU BROUGHT THEIR BROKEN-DOWN FURNITURE HERE!



BOOKS, CHROMOS, POTS, PANS, DISHES, BED-SPRINGS -- ENOUGH CHAIRS TO SEAT A REGIMENT-- AND YET YOU WON'T HOCK A FEW OF THEM TO BUY ME A NEW WHEEL-CHAIR!



YOU'RE A FINE ONE TO TALK, YOU SPENDTHRIFT! ALL YOUR LIFE YOU'VE BEEN A WASTREL, AND NOW YOU'RE AN INGRATE!

WHY SHOULD I BUY A NEW WHEEL CHAIR AND BREAK MY BACK PUSHING YOU ABOUT?

BECAUSE THE OLD ONE IS GETTING AS CREAKY AS YOUR OWN JOINTS, BROTHER CLAUDE!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS TALK, BROTHER GORDON! I'LL PUSH YOU IN YOUR **ARM-CHAIR** FOR A CHANGE!



I SHOULD
CANE YOU
WITH YOUR
OWN WALKING
STICK TO
TEACH YOU
GRATITUDE!

CLAUDE--CLAUDE--
REMEMBER WHAT
THE DOCTOR
SAID-- MY
HEART---

YES-- I REMEMBER! HERE,
TAKE YOUR CANE! I DON'T
WANT YOU TO DIE-- I WANT
YOU TO LIVE AND SUFFER
ALL YOU DESERVE!

HERE, I SHALL PUT THE PHONE
RIGHT BESIDE YOU, BROTHER
GORDON! ANY TIME YOU GROW
WEARY OF YOUR MISERY, YOU
CAN CALL THADDEUS JUSTIN,
OUR ATTORNEY, AND TELL HIM
TO PUT YOU IN AN OLD
FOLKS' HOME!

NO-- NO---

SINCE YOU SAID THIS WHEEL-
CHAIR IS NO GOOD, I'LL BREAK
IT APART RIGHT NOW!

DON'T, CLAUDE-- I
TAKE IT ALL BACK---

SNAP!
CREAK!

I'LL PUT THE PIECES WITH THE REST OF
THIS JUNK, AS YOU TERM IT! FROM NOW
ON, BROTHER GORDON, YOU CAN LOOK
AT THE FOUR WALLS OF
THIS ROOM UNTIL
YOU DIE!

I-- I DIDN'T
MEAN IT,
CLAUDE!

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, AS GORDON
SAT GLUMLY IN HIS ARM-CHAIR
BROODING ABOUT THE PAST, CLAUDE
PRODDED HIM INTO THINKING
OF THE **FUTURE!**

IT'S LOVELY IN THE PARK TODAY,
BROTHER GORDON! I THINK I'LL
STROLL THERE WHEN I GO TO BUY
FOOD FOR DINNER! BY THE WAY,
THE OLD FOLKS' HOME IS NEAR THE
PARK TOO! I'M **SURE** THEY
WOULD WHEEL YOU THERE! THE
TELEPHONE IS STILL HANDY,
BROTHER GORDON!

THE TELEPHONE! THAT'S IT! BUT I
MUST FIX THINGS FIRST! HEH-HEH-HEH!

WHILE THRIFTY BROTHER CLAUDE WAS OUT BUYING CAT FOOD FOR DINNER, BROTHER GORDON ROSE FROM HIS CHAIR...



A FEW STEPS WERE ALL THAT HE COULD TAKE, BUT HE CAUGHT HIMSELF FIRMLY AGAINST THE WALL...



AND WORKED HIS WAY AROUND THE ROOM TO WHERE ALL THE JUNK WAS STACKED...

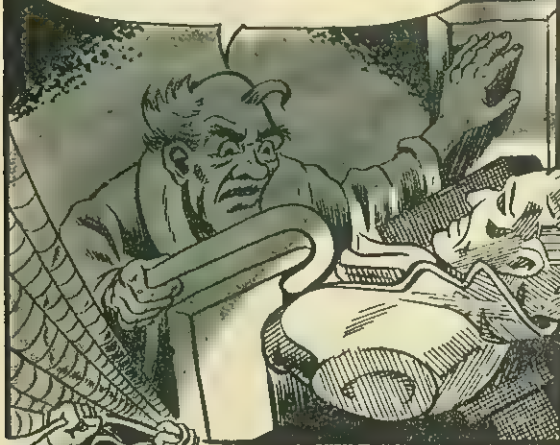
NOW TO SET A BOOBY TRAP FOR THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BOOBY, MY DEAR BROTHER CLAUDE!



THAT PIANO STOOL CAN COME OUT! AH! LOOK AT THOSE CHAIRS WOBBLE! PERFECT!



I'LL PUSH THAT BUST OVER A LITTLE SO IT REALLY **WILL** GO BUST WHEN THE TIME COMES!



UNDER A SCATTER RUG WAS A FOOTSTOOL THAT GORDON HAD SEEN CLAUDE STUMBLE OVER... I **KNOW**, BECAUSE I'D STUMBLER OVER IT, TOO... **WHEW!**



ALL THIS CABINET NEEDS NOW IS A JOLT TO TILT IT ALL THE WAY -- AND I KNOW JUST WHAT WILL DO IT!



AFTER THAT, HE WORKED HIS WAY BACK ALONG THE WALL TO HIS ARM-CHAIR...

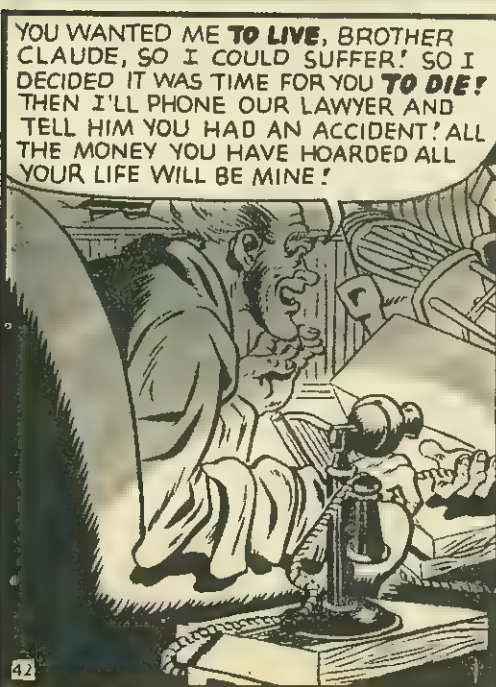
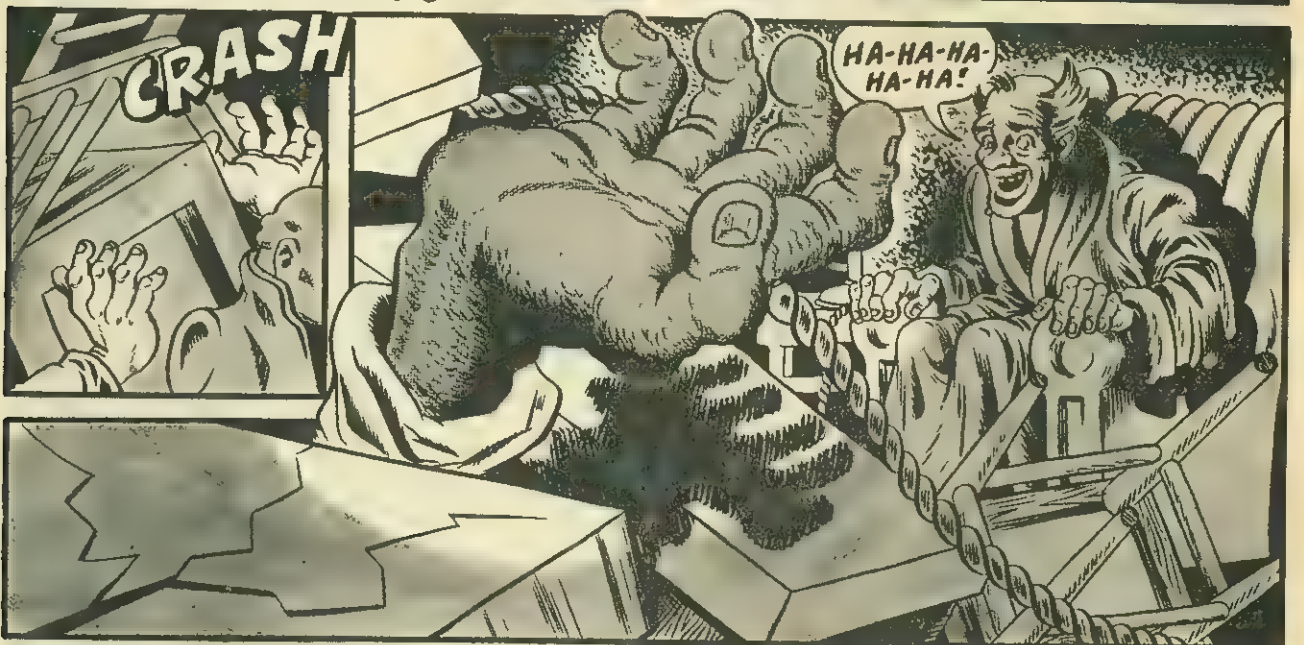
SO GORDON REMOVED THE FOOTSTOOL AND PUT THE ROLLERS FROM THE WHEEL-CHAIR IN ITS PLACE...



HEH! WON'T THIS BE A SURPRISE FOR DEAR BROTHER CLAUDE!

CLAUDE WAS TOO CHEAP TO THROW AWAY WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE WHEEL-CHAIR! HE'LL LIVE TO RUE HIS THRIFTY HABITS -- BUT HE WON'T LIVE **MUCH LONGER!**







NO-- NO, CLAUDE
---OHhhh, MY
HEART!

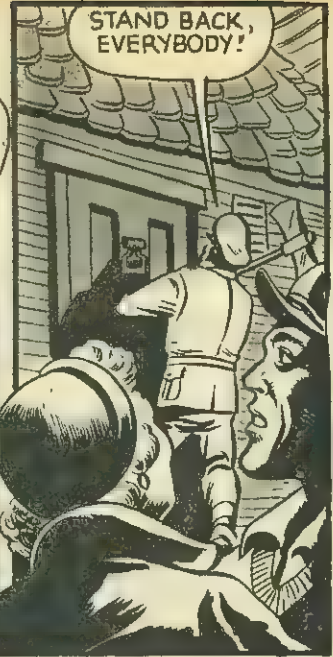


NATURALLY, THE CENTRAL
OPERATOR REPORTED A
PHONE OFF ITS HOOK,
BUT WHEN REPAIRMEN
WENT TO THE BRUNO
MANSION, THEY
COULDN'T ROUSE
ANYBODY!

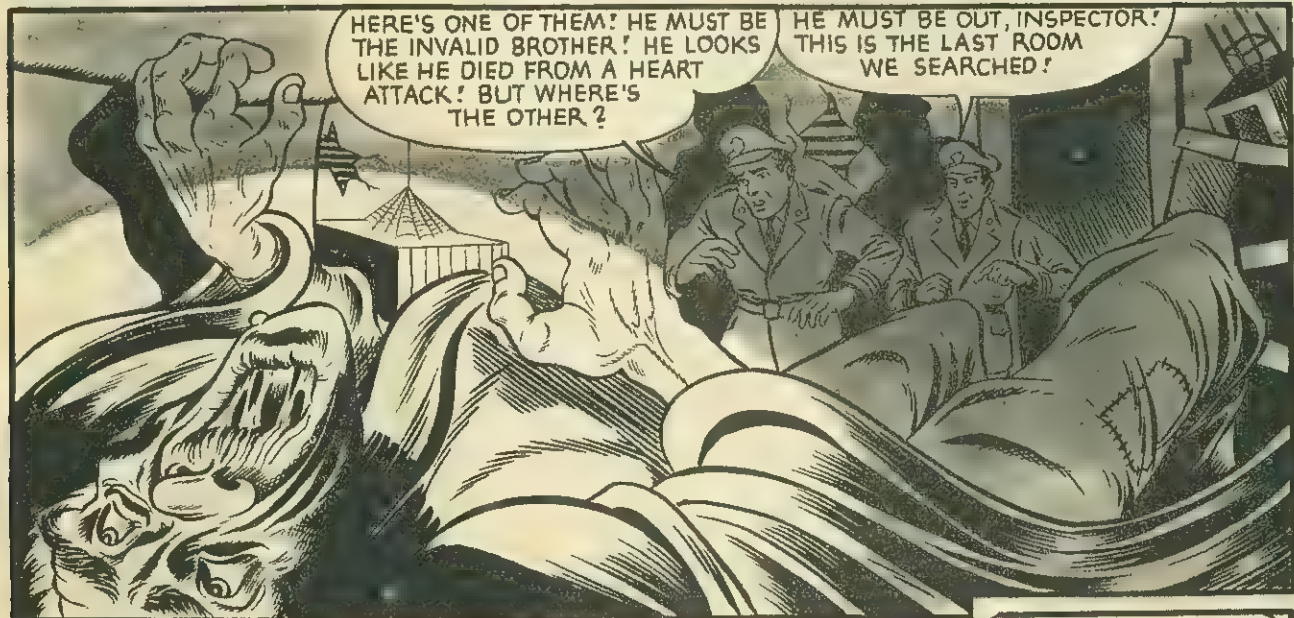


THIS THE THIRD
DAY I'VE COME HERE--
BUT THERE ISN'T
ANYBODY
HOME!

MAYBE WE'D
BETTER
NOTIFY THE
POLICE---



STAND BACK,
EVERYBODY!



HERE'S ONE OF THEM! HE MUST BE
THE INVALID BROTHER! HE LOOKS
LIKE HE DIED FROM A HEART
ATTACK! BUT WHERE'S
THE OTHER?

HE MUST BE OUT, INSPECTOR!
THIS IS THE LAST ROOM
WE SEARCHED!



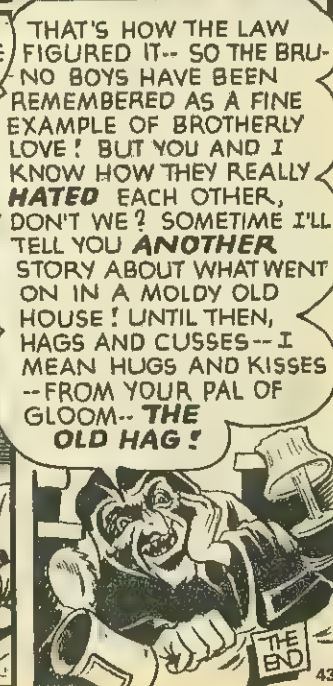
ALL RIGHT! CLEAN
AWAY THAT JUNKPILE
SO WE CAN CARRY
GORDON'S BODY
OUT!



INSPECTOR! HERE'S THE
OTHER BROTHER-- BURIED
UNDER THE FURNITURE!
HE MUST HAVE FIXED IT
UP TO KEEP BURGLARS
OUT -- AND THEN
STUMBLED INTO IT
HIMSELF!



YES-- AND WHEN GORDON
SAW WHAT HAPPENED, HE
TRIED TO PHONE FOR
HELP! BUT HIS HEART
FAILED HIM AND HE
KNOCKED OVER THE
TABLE, TELEPHONE
AND ALL!



THAT'S HOW THE LAW
FIGURED IT-- SO THE BRU--
NO BOYS HAVE BEEN
REMEMBERED AS A FINE
EXAMPLE OF BROTHERLY
LOVE! BUT YOU AND I
KNOW HOW THEY REALLY
HATED EACH OTHER,
DON'T WE? SOMETIME I'LL
TELL YOU **ANOTHER**
STORY ABOUT WHAT WENT
ON IN A MOLDY OLD
HOUSE! UNTIL THEN,
HAGS AND CUSSES-- I
MEAN HUGS AND KISSES
--FROM YOUR PAL OF
GLOOM-- **THE
OLD HAG!**

MIKE KENT WAS A NICE GUY... FRIENDLY, HARD-WORKING AND RESPECTED AS A SOLID ART-CRITIC. THEN, SUDDENLY, HE TURNED INTO A SNARLING, MURDEROUS BEAST... ONLY MIKE KNEW WHAT WROUGHT THIS CHANGE... ONLY HE KNEW THERE WAS A...

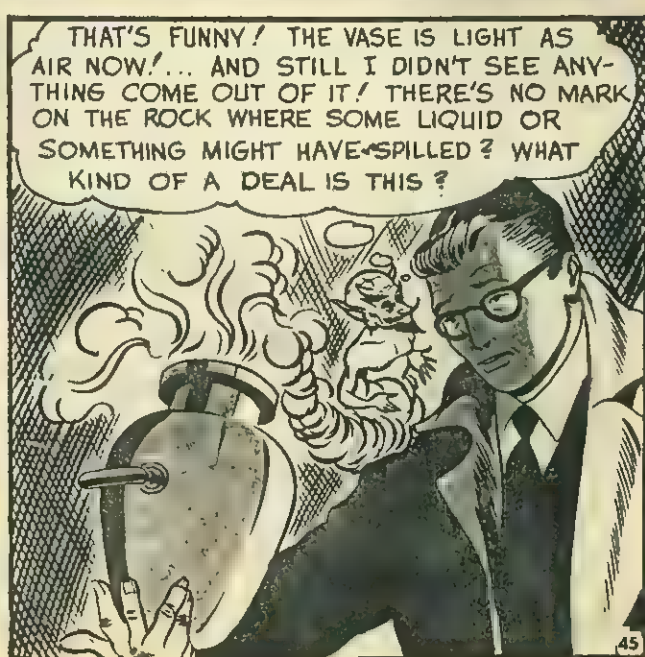
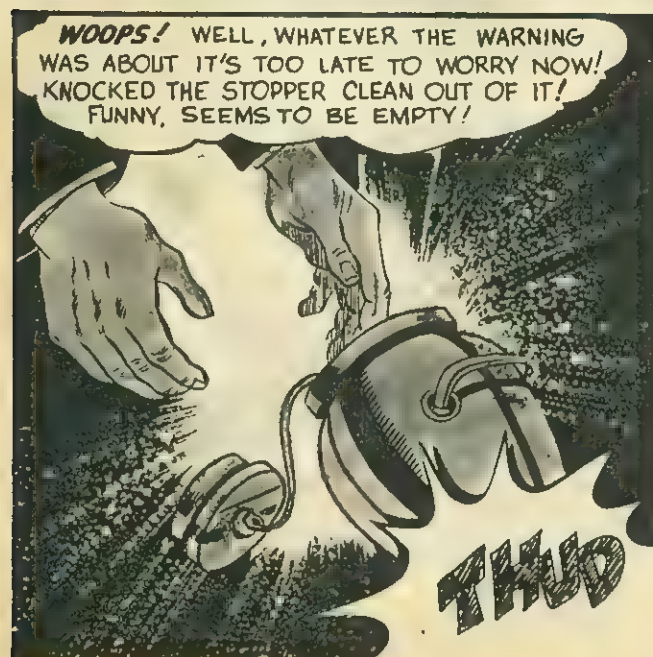
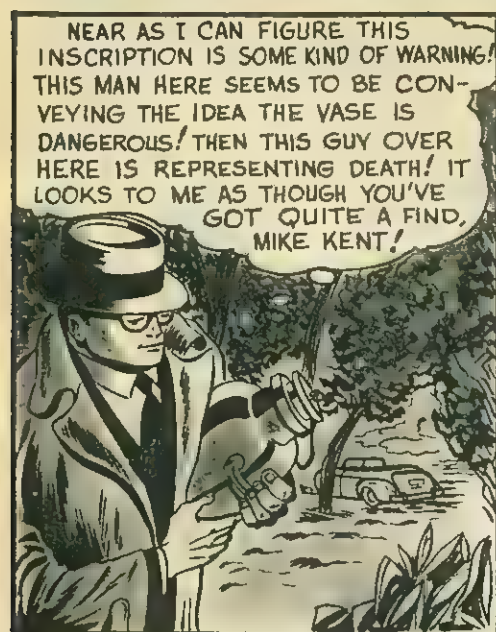


OUR STORY OPENS IN THE RUINS OF THE FAMOUS OLD KIRBY MANSION, ONCE THE HOME OF THE FABULOUS ART COLLECTION OF EUSTACE KIRBY, NOW A CRUMBLING WRECK! MIKE KENT, FREE-LANCE ART CRITIC, IS HUNTING THROUGH THE RUINS, HOPING TO RUN ACROSS A STORY...



JUNK! NOTHING BUT JUNK! CURIOUS WHY THE OLD CODGER JUST MOVED OUT AND LEFT THE PLACE TO ROT, THOUGH. WELL, GUESS HE COULD AFFORD IT, WITH HIS MILLIONS! BETTER GET BACK TO THE CAR BEFORE IT GETS SO DARK, I CAN'T FIND IT!







VERY ODD, VERY! WHAT'S ON MY SHOULDER? FEELS LIKE SOMETHING IS THERE! DON'T SEE ANYTHING! GUESS IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION!

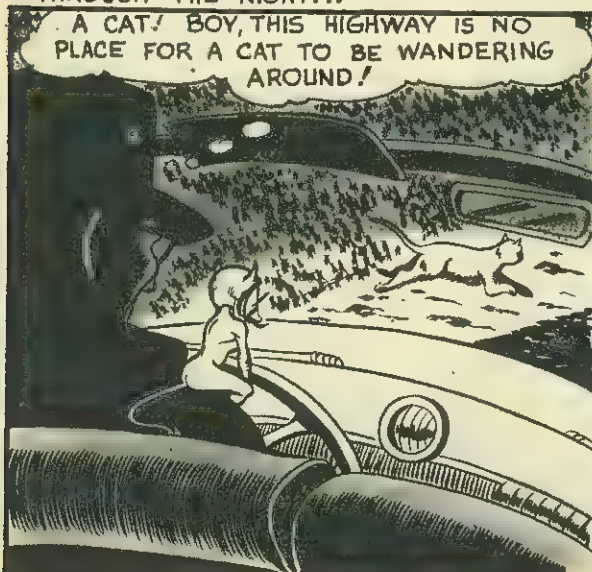


WHAT IS THIS? MAYBE I'VE GOT A NERVE TIC! SURE FEELS LIKE SOMETHING ON THAT SHOULDER THOUGH!

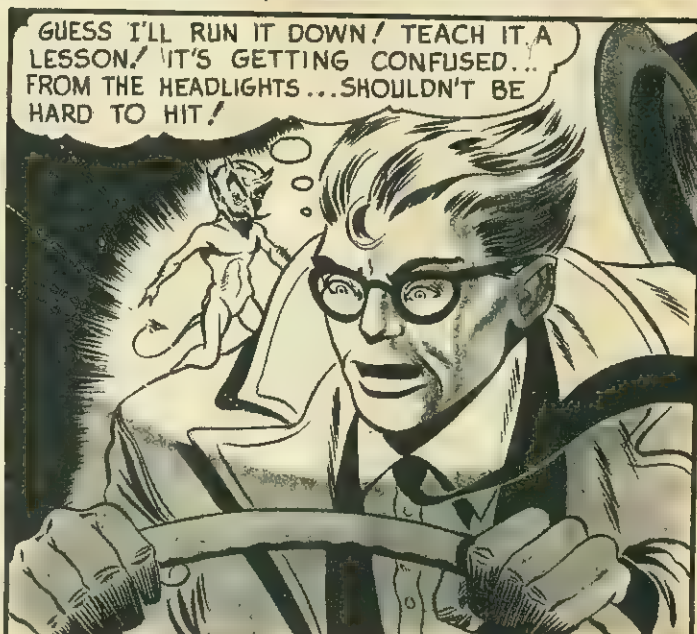


TIRE, I GUESS! BEEN WORKING TOO MUCH... SHOULD TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF! THINK I WILL AS SOON AS I TRACK DOWN THE STORY OF THIS VASE! WISH MY SHOULDER WOULD STOP BOTHERING ME!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS MIKE SPED THROUGH THE NIGHT...



A CAT! BOY, THIS HIGHWAY IS NO PLACE FOR A CAT TO BE WANDERING AROUND!



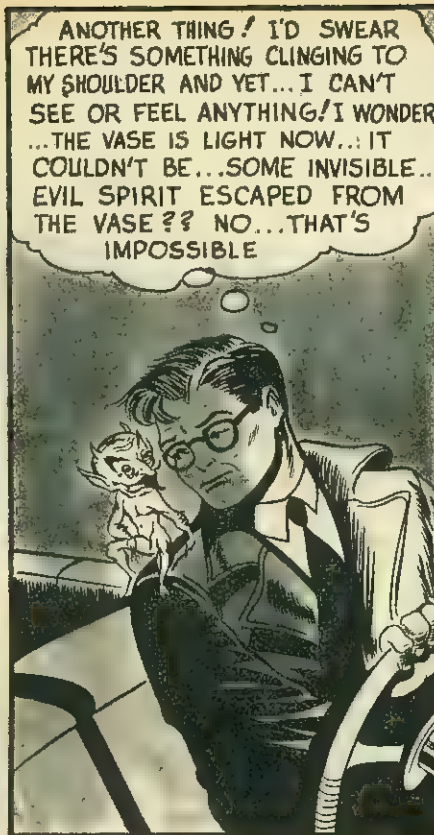
GUESS I'LL RUN IT DOWN! TEACH IT A LESSON! IT'S GETTING CONFUSED... FROM THE HEADLIGHTS... SHOULD'NT BE HARD TO HIT!



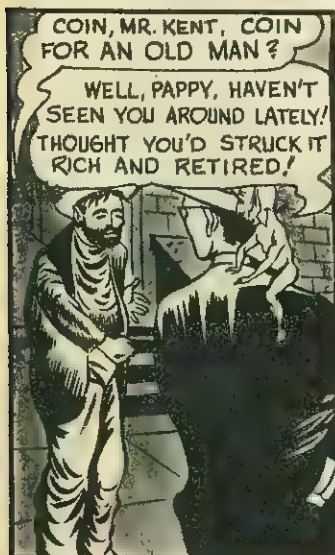
HA, THOUGHT YOU WERE SAFE, EH! WELL, PREPARE TO ENTER CAT HEAVEN... YOU LITTLE MONSTER!



GOT YOU! KNOCKED OUT ALL NINE LIVES!



THE NEXT DAY, AS KENT HURRIED TO SEE HIS FRIEND, PROF. ROGER BARTON...



I SAW WHAT HAPPENED! I'LL SEE THIS OLD BUM IS GIVEN A NICE REST IN THE LOCK-UP! TRYING TO GRAB MONEY FROM YOU! I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR GETTING SORE!

YES!
OF COURSE...
OF COURSE...

THAT'S THE
SECOND TIME!
THIS URGE TO
KILL... TO DESTROY.

IT MUST BE CONNECTED
IN SOME WAY WITH THIS FEELING
OF SOMETHING BEING ON MY
SHOULDER!



I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO FIND OUT! COULD AN EVIL SPIRIT LIVE... FOUR THOUSAND YEARS... COME BACK TO CURSE SOMEBODY IN A MODERN WORLD... WHERE NO ONE EVEN BELIEVES IN SPIRITS??



MINUTES LATER, IN PROFESSOR ROGER BARTON'S STUDY...

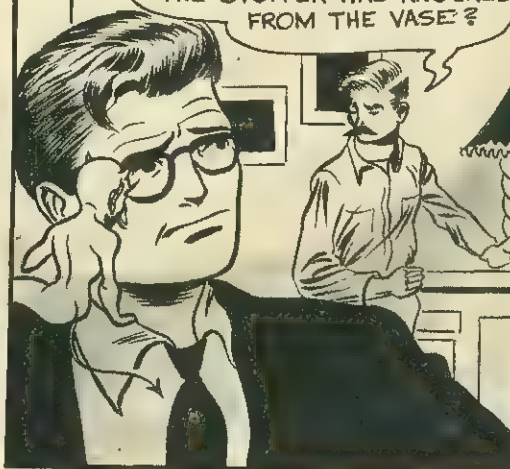
HMMM, VERY INTERESTING! MADE BY AN ANCIENT CULT OF DEVIL-WORSHIPERS WHO DWELT IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS OF AFRICA! I'D SAY IT WAS MADE ABOUT 2,000 B.C. TELL ME, IT WAS EMPTY WHEN YOU FOUND IT, WASN'T IT?

NO, IT WASN'T!



... AND THEN I GOT MY FOOT CAUGHT IN A VINE! THE VASE SLIPPED FROM MY HANDS AND THE STOPPER GOT KNOCKED OUT WHEN IT FELL! FUNNY THING, TOO, IT WAS VERY HEAVY BEFORE THAT! WHEN THE STOPPER CAME OUT IT GOT VERY LIGHT!

YES! YES, IT WOULD! TELL ME, HAVE YOU FELT ANY QUEER SENSATIONS, ANY PAINS, ANYTHING LIKE THAT SINCE THE STOPPER WAS KNOCKED FROM THE VASE?



YES, I SEEM TO HAVE A CONSTANT FEELING THAT SOMETHING IS CLINGING TO MY SHOULDER! AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE IS NOTHING THERE... BUT THE FEELING PERSISTS!



BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THERE! VERY DEFINITELY! AN EVIL SPIRIT FROM THE PAST! WHEN YOU KNOCKED THE STOPPER OUT OF THE VASE IT ESCAPED & CLUNG TO YOU! IT IS A PARASITE!

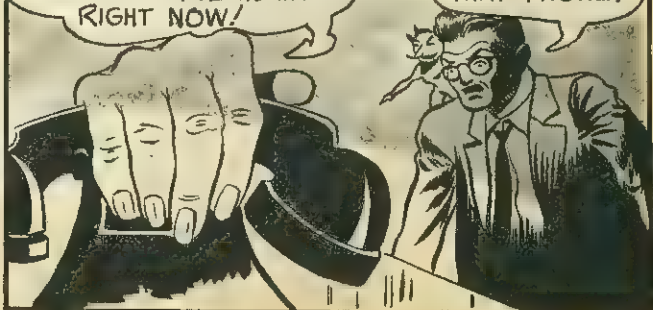
IF IT HASN'T ALREADY, THIS SPIRIT WILL DRIVE YOU TO EVIL! YOU WILL BE A MENACE TO HUMANITY! ONLY DEATH WILL FREE YOU OF IT... AND THEN IT WILL PASS ON TO ANOTHER PERSON!

EVIL DEED! YES... THE CAT...
... OLD MAN! PROFESSOR BARTON
WHAT CAN I DO?



YOU CAN DO NOTHING, KENT! YOU MUST BE LOCKED UP FOREVER... YOU'RE A DANGEROUS PERSON! I WILL CALL THE PROPER AUTHORITIES RIGHT NOW!

LOCKED UP & FOREVER? NO! NO! PROFESSOR BARTON... DON'T PICK UP THAT PHONE!





I CERTAINLY
WILL! IT'S MY DUTY...
TO CIVILIZATION!
OWWW! MY ARM!

DROP THAT PHONE!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO
PUT YOU OUT OF THE WAY!
... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE
THAT KNOWS MY SECRET!



**YOU'RE MAD!
INSANE!
KENT STOP!
OWWW!**

I'LL STOP WHEN YOU'RE
DEAD... YOU BUSYBODY! PUT
ME AWAY FOR LIFE, EH!
WELL, YOUR LIFE IS OVER!



THAT ENDS HIM... BUT... BUT...
WHAT HAVE I DONE TO MYSELF?
THEY'LL CATCH ME, I'LL BE TRIED,
FOR MURDER!



NO...NO...I WON'T BE
CAUGHT! NO ONE SAW ME
COME IN...NO ONE SAW ME
GO OUT! I'M SAFE! I'LL
LIVE AS A FREE MAN!



HE WAS A MENACE TO
SOCIETY...KNOWING HE
WOULD KILL AGAIN AND AGAIN!

WHERE CAN I GO! I CAN'T
BEAR BEING LOCKED UP...FOR
LIFE...ALONE...WHO'S THAT?



MIKE! WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU? YOU
LOOK LIKE
A WRECK!

I AM, JEREMY! I...I'M
POSSESSED BY AN EVIL
SPIRIT! A SPIRIT THAT
MAKES ME WANT TO KILL!
I CAN'T GET RID OF IT...
I'M GOING...CRAZY!



I'LL HAVE TO BE
LOCKED UP...OR KILL
MYSELF! IT'S TERRIBLE,
JEREMY, TERRIBLE!

OH, COME NOW, MIKE!
YOU'RE OVERWORKED!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING
AS EVIL SPIRITS... STOP
AND COLLECT YOURSELF
MAN!



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LET'S SEE... SLADE SHOULD GET THIS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING--I'M ENCLOSING A KEY SO HE WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING IN! FUNNY THING! NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO...I'M NOT WORRIED OR AFRAID...I'M RELIEVED, IN FACT!

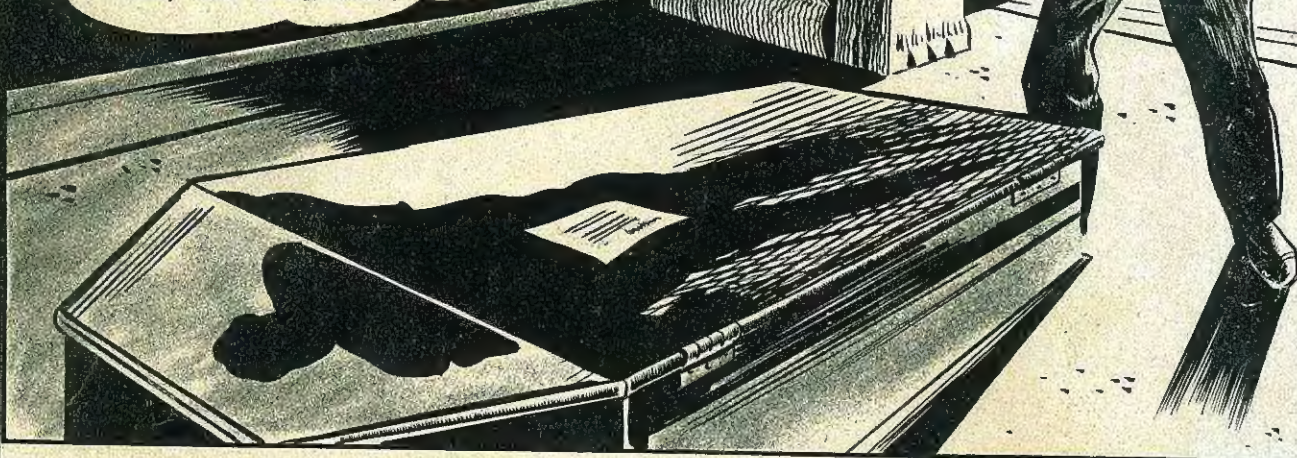


JUST BEFORE NOON, THE NEXT DAY...

AFTER THE WAY MIKE ACTED YESTERDAY, I DON'T KNOW BUT WHAT THIS MIGHT BE A TRAP! SOMETHING FUNNY, THAT NOTE, AND ENCLOSING A KEY! MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME ALONE! I COULD NEVER HANDLE HIM IF HE WAS IN ONE OF THOSE RAGING MOODS LIKE HE GOT IN YESTERDAY!



ULPP! A...A... COFFIN!
BUT WHY? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
THERE'S A NOTE ON TOP OF IT...
MAYBE, THAT'LL EXPLAIN!



AND SO... THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT, JEREMY! I ASK YOU TO LOCK THE COFFIN FROM THE OUTSIDE! IF IT IS EVER OPENED THE EVIL SPIRIT WILL GET OUT... AND BECOME A PARASITE ON SOME OTHER UNFORTUNATE BEING --- JUST AS IT DID ON ME!



I'D SAY IT WAS CRAZY... IF I DIDN'T SEE HOW MIKE HAD CHANGED! IT TOOK REAL COURAGE TO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE... KNOWING THE SPIRIT COULD ONLY BE IMPRISONED IN SILVER...AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT WAS TO IMPRISON HIMSELF WITH IT! I HOPE THE POISON HE TOOK GAVE HIM A QUICK AND MERCIFUL DEATH!



POOR MIKE!



THE EVIL SPIRIT, THE DEVIL ON MIKE KENT'S SHOULDER IS CAGED...FOR NOW... BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN THROUGH THE YEARS? WILL THE NEXT VICTIM, IF THERE IS ONE, BE AS UNSELFISH AND AS COURAGEOUS AS KENT... OR WILL HE GO ON A RAMPAGE OF MURDER AND DESTRUCTION?